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Japan

Diet Debate on Bill To Continue Through 7 Nov

OW0511230490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1452 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 5 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa agreed Monday to continue with parliamentary debate on the U.N. Peace Cooperation bill through Wednesday when the Diet is expected to finalize a congratulatory message on the occasion of Emperor Akihito's November 12 enthronement ceremony.

Conferring in an hourlong strategy session, Kaifu and Ozawa reconfirmed their plan to see the bill through the ruling party-controlled House of Representatives before the extraordinary Diet session closes Saturday, a top party official said.

They also agreed to try to avoid causing unnecessary friction with opposition parties, which are strongly opposed to the bill, because it would pave the way for sending members of the Self-Defense Forces abroad, the party official said.

Ozawa, the LDP's chief strategist for legislation, proposed continuing Diet deliberations in the special committee through Wednesday. If no compromise is in sight, Ozawa will seek a meeting with secretaries general of opposition parties to discuss a mutually acceptable plan.

The LDP is hoping to see the government-sponsored bill passed by the lower house before the weekend to demonstrate its commitment to the legislation. However, it is unlikely the bill will get the necessary votes to pass in the opposition-controlled House of Councillors.

The meeting between Kaifu and Ozawa came at the close of the first day of Diet debate on the bill following an LDP victory in Sunday's upper house by-election in Aichi Prefecture. Encouraged by the poll results, Ozawa suggested Sunday that the 30-day extraordinary Diet session should be extended by 20 days to allow deliberation in the House of Councillors.

JSP To Try To Have UN Peace Bill Scrapped

OW0611115690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1055 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 6 KYODO—Japan Socialist Party (JSP) Chairwoman Takako Doi said Tuesday her party is making every effort to have the U.N. Peace Cooperation Bill currently before the House of Representatives scrapped.

Doi made the remark in an address to a meeting of about 100 trade unionists, intellectuals, religious persons, and civic activists in connection with the government-presented bill which would enable Japan to dispatch Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to participate in U.N. peacekeeping activities.

The leader of Japan's largest opposition party said "Even the dispatch of one soldier" overseas would be "fatal" for Japan's war-renouncing Constitution.

The government will not be able to garner support for the bill from an "overwhelming majority" of lawmakers in the parliament, said Doi, adding such support from parliamentarians should be required for a bill which would "control the fate of Japan."

The bill is under deliberation by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition parties in the LDP-controlled lower house in an extraordinary Diet session scheduled to end Saturday.

Following the speech by Doi, those attending the meeting approved a statement demanding that the government withdraw the bill and declare a ban on the sending of SDF personnel overseas. The statement also said Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu should take political responsibility for presenting the bill to the Diet, adding the bill has inflicted "damage" on the international prestige of "the peace-loving Japanese nation."

Spokesman: Iraq Should Release All Hostages

OW0611102690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1012 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 6 KYODO - Iraq should release not only Japanese but all foreign hostages unconditionally, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Taizo Watanabe made the statement to reporters following reports that Iraq may release 70 Japanese nationals at the time of the visit now to Baghdad by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Watanabe said Japan would welcome the release of the hostages from the viewpoint of their gaining their freedom after being held in violation of international law and humanitarian standards. But he said the government's basic stand is that not only Japanese but all foreigners held against their will in Iraq and Kuwait should be released unconditionally.

The 70 Japanese nationals are believed to be those on a list presented earlier at the request of the Iraqi Government. Many of them may be either elderly or ill. Iraq is holding 305 Japanese in Iraq itself and another eight in occupied Kuwait.

Kuwait Pays Part of Payments for LNG Carrier

OW0611081190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0742 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 6 KYODO—A tanker operator owned by the exiled government of Kuwait has made the second installment of payments for a liquified petroleum gas supertanker it ordered from Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., Mitsubishi officials said Tuesday. The payment, made in late October by Kuwait Oil Tanker Co., follows an initial payment made last May when the two parties signed the 10 billion yen contract, the officials said.

The latest payment came as a relief for Mitsubishi, which had been worried that the order might be canceled as contact between the two companies has been interrupted frequently since then.

The Kuwaiti firm is to pay the total amount in several tranches. The amount paid so far represents some 40 percent.

Japanese shipbuilders have not received any further orders from the Kuwaiti firm since early August, when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Visiting Daughter Says Deng Xiaoping Healthy

OW0611130090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1242 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 6 KYODO—China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping is healthy and has no health problems, his eldest daughter and painter Deng Lin, who is currently visiting Japan for an exhibition of her own paintings, said Tuesday.

Lin, here for an exhibition of her own paintings, said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE that her 86-year-old father enjoyed a break from politics by swimming in a resort area in the summer. Deng's absence from public view since July this year and his failure to meet foreign dignitaries visiting Beijing prompted speculation he is suffering a serious illness.

Deng took his family to the well-known beach resort of Beidaihe in northeast Hebei Province, northern China, for two months in July and August and enjoyed swimming for about an hour each day even in the rain, his 49-year-old daughter said.

During the Asian Games in Beijing in September and October, a gathering of Asian athletes, she said the elder Deng videotaped his favorite game of soccer and often stayed up late watching the replays.

One of his favorite pastimes includes watching television in the evening with his four grandchildren aged from 6 to 18. He also enjoys bridge, a pastime he is well-known for, Deng Lin said.

Although he announced his retirement from official politics, Deng maintains a daily routine of rising between seven and eight each morning and reading a variety of newspapers and documents interspersed with frequent walks, his daughter said.

At his Beijing residence, Deng lives with 17 members of the family including his 90-year-old mother-in-law, the families of his second son and third daughter and their four children, Deng Lin said.

Deng is very reserved and rarely speaks of politics at home, she said. He is currently showing a very strong interest in upgrading the people's living standard, Deng Lin said.

Deng is patriotic and is adamant that China's past history of falling prey to superpowers should never be repeated, his daughter said.

Deng Lin is president of an art exchange organization in China. Her exhibition will be held in Tokyo on November 13-25.

Exhibition Aimed at 'Satisfiying' U.S. Request

OW0511103890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0927 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Osaka, Nov. 5 KYODO—Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. said Monday it will open an exhibition of imported semiconductors on Thursday and Friday jointly with affiliated companies. It is the second exhibition following one last year and is aimed at satisfying the U.S. request for more Japanese purchases of foreign-made semiconductors, Matsushita officials said.

As many as 100 foreign companies, including Intel Corp. and Motorola Inc., will participate in the exhibiton, with over 1,000 buyers and engineers expected from the Matsushita group.

At the two-day exhibition, Matsushita will hold a seminar to explain the technical applications of the semiconductors in its products, while the foreign companies will explain the uses of their products.

In October, Matsushita Electric sent a semiconductor buying mission to the U.S. for negotiations that generated a potential 12 billion yen in business.

The Matsushita group bought 27.4 billion yen in foreign semiconductors in fiscal 1989, almost 13 percent of its purchases. It plans to enlarge its purchases to 38.0 billion yen in the current fiscal year ending March 31, 1991.

Steel Pipe Exports to USSR To Start Again

OW0611121890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0855 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 6 KYODO—Four major Japanese steelmakers will export 80,000 tons of steel pipes to the Soviet Union next year, officials said Tuesday.

Nippon Steel Corp., Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd., Kawasaki Steel Corp., and NKK Corp. will export large-diameter steel pipes from January to June 1991.

Exports of steel had been temporarily stopped due to payment delays. The current agreement follows a deal made at the end of October for the export of 105,000 tons of seamless pipes. Prices are believed to have been increased 20 percent above those of the previous round of exports. Payments will be guaranteed by issuance of a letter of credit.

Officials said they believe the Soviets agreed to the substantial price hike because of the priority given to developing energy resources. High crude oil prices resulting from the Gulf crisis have benefited the Soviet Union with an increased flow of foreign currency, they said.

Women's Groups Petition for Kajiyama's Firing

OW0511095990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0901 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 5 KYODO—A coalition of women's groups petitioned the government Monday to sack Justice Minister Seiroku Kajiyama for his racist and sexist statement comparing blacks and foreign prostitutes. "We, as residents of Japan, feel embarrassed and angry about the fact that Justice Minister Kajiyama has retained his post, and that Prime Minister (Toshiki) Kaifu has not sacked him, despite criticism from abroad," the coalition said in a resolution submitted to Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Tadamori Ohshima.

The resolution was adopted by over a dozen citizens' groups represented at an October 27 protest rally attended by 250 people. The activists were accompanied by women parliamentarians who submitted a separate resolution calling for Kajiyama's resignation. The two groups said that Kajiyama's comment also offended women as well as blacks because it fans prejudice against foreign women engaged in prostitution, many of whom they said are forced to do so by Japanese gangsters.

Kajiyama told reporters September 21, one day after inspecting a roundup of Asian women allegedly involved in prostitution, that "it's like in America when neighborhoods become mixed because blacks move in and whites are forced out ... prostitutes ruin the atmosphere in the same way." The statement has stirred widespread protests and boycotts of Japanese products in the United States, though so far few Japanese citizens have publicly called for Kajiyama's resignation.

Radicals Suspected in Firebombing of Shrine

OW0611035390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0315 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Oita, Nov. 6 KYODO—The gate of a shrine dedicated to an ancient emperor of Japan was damaged by fire early Tuesday, in what police said may be an arson attack by radicals opposing the enthronement ceremonies for Emperor Akihito on Monday.

A passer-by discovered the fire at Kibaru Hachimansha Shrine in Takeda, western Oita Prefecture, 40 minutes after Monday midnight. Fire fighters extinguished the blaze quickly but part of the shrine gate and a nearby small warehouse were damaged. Police said the fire apparently started in the warehouse.

The shrine, believed to enshrine the 12th Emperor Keiko, is said to have been first established in the late 4th century.

Another reason the police gave for blaming the fire on radicals is that the Imperial Household Agency has decided to use rice from Oita Prefecture and Akita Prefecture in the November 22-23 "Daijosai" ceremony, a Shinto rite in which the newly-enthroned Emperor will offer rice to the Goddess of the Sun and other deities, and pray for a stable harvest.

The Oita fire brings to 12 the number of suspected attacks against Shinto shrines this year, according to the police.

The radical leftist groups Chukakuha (middle core faction) and Kakurokyo have openly opposed the imperial system and vowed to "destroy" the upcoming enthronement rites.

They declared in their publications that shrines would be one of their main targets after an organization supervising 80,000 shrines in Japan in July ordered the shrines to hold some sort of celebratory rite on the enthronement day.

Chukakuha claimed responsibility for three arson attacks on shrines in Tokyo in March and three in Nara Prefecture in July.

Kakurokyo said it was responsible for two fires at shrines in Hyogo and Tochigi prefectures last month.

A shrine in Akita Prefecture was totally razed by fire in July, but no group has claimed responsibility for that fire.

On Sunday, a branch shrine in Naha, Okinawa Prefecture, of Shimane Prefecture's Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine was partly burned in a suspected arson attack, according to police.

Including the attacks on shrines, the total number of leftist attacks in connection with the enthronement rites has exceeded 60 cases this year, police said. They include the bomb attacks last Thursday and Friday on Tokyo Police dormitories in which one police officer died and six persons were injured.

Finance Minister Hashimoto: Yen Value Stable

OW0611025790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0142 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 6 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto indicated satisfaction with the present exchange value of the yen against the dollar on Tuesday, terming the yen's level "stable."

"I think the yen is relatively stable," Hashimoto told reporters after a regular cabinet meeting.

Weighed down by the prevalent concern about the weakness of the U.S. economy, the dollar fell through the 127 yen line in early Tokyo currency dealings. The U.S. currency was changing hands at the upper end of the 126 yen level at 10 AM.

EPA Survey Concludes Capital Spending To Rise

OW0611123090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0843 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 6 KYODO—Japan's corporate investment is expected to increase by 12.2 percent in the fiscal year ending March 1990 according to a survey conducted by the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), an EPA official said Tuesday. It will be the fourth consecutive year of such double-digit growth, making the spending boom second only to the so-called "izanagi" period of economic expansion from November 1965 to July 1970.

Corporate investment growth was 21.2 percent up in fiscal 1989 compared with the year before. The increase was initially expected to be 5.8 percent before the figure was adjusted.

The EPA survey showed that manufacturers are planning to boost their capital spending by 17.9 percent for the third successive year of double digit growth. The official said investment among manufacturers will be mainly directed at increasing production capacity.

Nonmanufacturing companies expect an 8.6 percent increase, down from a 20.8 percent rise last year.

On a capital basis, companies capitalized at 1 billion yen or more are planning to increase their spending by 15.9 percent, while those with less capitalization expected to settle with a 5.2 percent increase.

The EPA official said tighter monetary conditions by the Bank of Japan have begun to affect smaller companies.

The survey was conducted in September covering companies capitalized at 100 million yen or more. The EPA received valid responses from 95.1 percent, or 4,269 out of 4,490 firms.

Meanwhile, the official said Japan's economic outlook is not bad for the time being, despite some negative perceptions of its growth by businessmen in management positions.

He said managerial level personnel were pessimistic since the macroeconomic outlook is usually influenced by occasional psychological factors such as the current uncertainty over the Persian Gulf crisis, low stock prices, high interest rates, and theoretical perceptions that the heat is going out of the economy.

The official, however, said there is no sign of any imminent falling off in the Japanese economy. He said this is supported on a microeconomic level by optimistic figures such as expected stable growth in company turnovers.

Twelve percent of managers predicted that the nation's economy will strengthen from the July-September period, while 7 percent assumed it will turn down.

For the October-December 1990 period, those who predicted a decline in the economy amounted to 16 percent compared to optimists who numbered 7 percent, while the rest thought there will not be a major change.

The forecast for the January-March 1991 period is more gloomy, with pessimists rising to 22 percent, leaving optimists at a mere 6 percent. Managers, however, were bullish as far as their turnovers are concerned.

The business survey index (bsi), the difference of percentages calculated by subtracting those who expect a decline from those who see a rise, stood at 20 points for the July-September 1990 period, followed by 16 points, for both the October-December 1990 and January-March 1991 periods.

The survey also showed that managers are expecting a continuous rise in product prices till the end of next March, for which the EPA official said higher raw material prices are responsible.

International Agreement on ISDN's Expected

OW0511095890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0914 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 5 KYODO—An international agreement covering the technological framework for the next-generation digital telecommunications system is expected to be reached at a conference set for Japan later this month, officials of the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry said Monday.

The Paris-based Comite Consultatif International Telegraphique et Telephonique (CCITT) [International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee] will likely propose technological standards pertaining to broad-band integrated services digital networks (ISDN) when it convenes November 26 through December 7 in Matsuyama City, the officials said.

ISDN can move 100 million or more bits of data per second, 70 times faster than current ISDN circuits. The network can transmit digitized voice, data, and video traffic through a single optical fiber line. The lesser 64-kilobit ISDN can send 4,000 kanji [characters] per second, 30 times faster than current analogue systems.

Higher-capacity ISDN networks can transmit moving images for full-motion video conferencing and high-definition television. Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. plans to launch such networks by 1995.

CCITT, which is expected to come up with the detailed international technological standards for broad-band ISDN by 1992, will make its recommendations regarding the method for changing the mode and the speed of transmission.

It will also make similar proposals for the interface between user terminals that regulate the speed and electric features of digital signals and the network lines, the officials said.

Diversifying Postal Savings Instruments Viewed

OW0511080590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0722 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 5 KYODO—The Posts and Telecommunications Ministry is considering measures aimed at diversifying savings instruments offered by post offices nationwide to make them competitive with financial products offered by commercial banks.

The move is designed to counter a wave of new financial instruments expected from commercial banks amid ongoing relaxation of government regulations on financial products, ministry officials said.

Such measures largely aim at having two mainstay postal savings instruments—fixed-amount deposits and ordinary deposits—increase their appeal, they said.

Fixed-amount deposits, locally called "teigaku yokin," can be canceled any time after being held at post offices for six months or more, but can remain on deposit for up to 10 years. Their interest is compounded semiannually.

Ordinary deposits are equivalent to demand deposits offered by banks, but carry higher interest than the bank deposits.

Among options being discussed are allowing depositors to withdraw fixed-amount deposits any time after being on deposit for three months or more, but with less interest, and extending the required duration of deposit to one or two years with higher interest, the officials said.

Another option is having fixed-amount deposits carry variable interest rates. Their interest is currently tied to the official discount rate.

The ministry also intends to revise a law governing postal savings to allow it to launch new postal savings instruments in a flexible manner, they said.

The postal savings law strictly limits the content of postal savings products the ministry can offer, and at present the ministry is required to negotiate with the Finance Ministry to win the greenlight for new postal savings products as part of budgetary talks. This process forces the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry to wait a whole year before launching new postal savings products, according to the officials.

Mitsui Develops New Superconductive Power Lead

OW0511231190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1448 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 5 KYODO—Mitsui Mining and Smelting Co. has developed an experimental superconductor power lead that is capable of carrying 1,000 ampheres of electricity, the firm announced Monday. This technological breakthrough would result in putting power leads of high-temperature oxide superconduting rod into practical use much earlier than expected, it said. The company said it used an oxide superconducting rod incorporating bismuth to transmit the electricity at a temperature of 269 c below zero.

A power lead is a conductor to supply electricity to a superconducting coil which comes in two types—niobium or titanium.

Until now, copper wire has been used as the power lead. However, since copper is highly heat-conductive, a considerable amount of expensive liquid helium has been used as a cooling agent to keep the superconducting coil operating.

Kazutomo Hoshino, who heads the research team, said the problem has been solved by replacing copper wire with an oxide superconducting rod as the power lead and winding silver foil round the rod. He said his team earlier succeeded in passing 500 amperes of electricity through the power lead of an oxide superconducting rod at a temperature of 196 degrees c below zero.

The researcher said the team would now work to pass at least 1,000 amperes of electricity through the power lead at the temperature of 196 c below zero.

When the new power lead comes into use, it is expected to cut down on the use of expensive helium and reduce the power to operate refrigerators, Hoshino said. The achievement will be reported at the third International Symposium on Superconductivity which begins Tuesday in Sendai, a major city in northeastern Japan.

Domestic Vehicle Sales Reportedly Rise Slightly

OW0111110990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1046 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 1 KYODO—Japan's domestic sales of cars, trucks and buses, excluding minicars, moved slightly up by 0.9 percent in October from a year ago to 504,641 units, industry officials said Thursday.

The Japan Automobile Dealers Association officials said the figure was the highest for the month of October but the growth rate is apparently slowing down following the 0.3 percent rise in September.

Automakers say sales may be facing a turning point after a period of long and steady growth. But although the October rise was only 0.9 percent, it was still the 20th successive month of increase on a year-on-year basis.

Commenting on the slow growth of sales, an official at a major automaker said high interest rates, rising prices of oil products triggered by the Gulf crises, and weak stock prices have discouraged consumers. He added that serious shortages in parking lots have also contributed to easing the growth.

Sales of passenger cars dropped for the second consecutive month, down 1.2 percent to 357,005 units.

Sales of larger models mainly with an engine capacity of over 2001 cc [cubic centimeters] rose by 69.7 percent to

52,347 units, while those of smaller cars slipped by 7.8 percent to 304,658 units. Another industry source said this phenomenon is often seen in periods of sales stagnation.

Truck sales rose 6.5 percent to 145,784 units, while buses also jumped 4.5 percent to 1,852 units.

Toyota Motor Corp. boosted its sales by 4.2 percent, Nissan Motor Co. by 3.7 percent, and Mitsubishi Motors Corp. by 8.7 percent. Honda Motor Co., however, suffered a 20.9 percent setback and Mazda Motor Corp. sales fell 7.5 percent.

Sony Plans To Market HDTV for Home Use

OW0111143290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1415 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 1 KYODO—Sony Corp. on Thursday unveiled a wide-aspect 36-inch high-definition television (HDTV) receiver for home use, in preparation for the start of HDTV broadcasts next fall in Japan. This TV, the first consumer-use HDTV receiver to be marketed, will go on sale on December 1 for 2.3 million yen.

Sony first announced the development of an HDTV for industrial use in 1981. Sony officials said that the new home-use HDTV lacks a decoder and will have to be fitted with one if it is to receive HDTV broadcasts. They said such decoders will be produced to order from December at a cost of 1.8 million yen each. A decoder converts encoded data back into its original form.

The decoderless home HDTV, however, is capable of receiving common TV broadcasts and satellite TV broadcasts, as well as reproducing video disks, the officials said.

A wide-aspect 16:9 ratio cathode-ray tube, compared with the conventional 4:3 ratio type, is a main feature of the new Sony product, they said. Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) is due to start full-scale HDTV broadcasting in the autumn next year.

Other consumer electronics giants like Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Toshiba Corp., and NEC Corp., which have already test-manufactured consumer-use HDTV receivers, are also preparing to market them.

Climate Meeting, Compromise on CO2 Levels Noted

OW0511081390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0702 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 5 KYODO—A United Nations climate conference would abandon a common worldwide target for cutting global warming carbon dioxide [CO2] emissions due to international conflicts of interest, Japanese sources said Monday.

The second world climate conference, which opened here on October 29, dealt with a statement from scientists meeting under its auspices claiming that positive action, especially by industrialized nations whose CO2 emissions contribute 75 percent of the total, could have an effect on overall global reduction. The statement said such nations could cut their CO2 emissions by 20 percent by 2005.

But since the 100-nation conference has also scheduled discussion by government ministers and officials for November 6-7, it would not officially accept the experts' claim and would instead merely call for a CO2 stabilization program by 1992, Japanese sources attending the meeting said.

The meeting would also adopt a declaration that would combine three conflicting arguments, the sources said.

For nations like the United States, which refuse to set a specific reduction target for CO2 emissions, believed to be a major factor in causing a rise in the earth's temperature and sea levels, the conference would merely urge nations to set effective goals. However, the conference would also welcome the more positive moves by Japan, and the European Community (EC) nations, which have decided to stabilize CO2 emissions in 2000 at the 1990's level.

Thirdly, the final declaration would take account of the "special position" of developing economies or countries including the Soviet Union and East European nations which face a period of structural transition.

Reaction by the conference to a demand from developing nations that industrialized nations create a new fund to help them in the world climate protection battle would depend on the final outcome of the more politically motivated discussion although additional financial assistance is to be extended to the developing nations, the sources said.

The Japanese sources said Japan would likely approve the contents of the conference declaration due November 7, but said the EC nations might refute any compromise that weakens a combined effort against global warming.

Mercury Abolition in Dry Cell Batteries Planned

OW0511142990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1208 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 5 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is planning to eliminate mercury, an environmental hazard, from dry cell batteries, a MITI source said Monday. The ministry is aiming to abolish the use of mercury in manganese batteries sometime in fiscal 1991, beginning April 1, 1991, and in alkaline batteries soon after fiscal 1992, he said.

Some 2.1 billion batteries of 4 billion ones, being produced annually in Japan, are destined for the home market. About 72 percent of the domestic shipments are of the manganese variety, while alkaline batteries make up 16 percent.

Under guidelines to be compiled by a MITI advisory panel later this month, Japanese manufacturers will be forbidden in fiscal 1991 to use mercury in manganese dry cell batteries. The mercury content of manganese dry cell batteries is currently 0.002 percent.

Manufacturers will be forced to reduce the amount of mercury in their alkaline dry cell batteries to 0.025 percent in fiscal 1991 from the current 0.1 percent.

The new guidelines will be stricter than those of the European Community (EC), currently the world's most stringent. The mercury content of batteries produced in the EC is not allowed to surpass 0.1 percent, and this will be lowered to 0.025 percent in 1992.

Mercury is used to prevent corrosion. Domestic and overseas manufacturers have been working to develop anticorrosive alternatives.

The move by MITI was prompted by the launch last year by a few firms of production of dry cell batteries that do not contain mercury.

North Korea

Joint U.S.-ROK 'Eagle-90' Exercises Condemned

SK0611113390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 6 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean puppets began the criminal "Eagle-90" joint military exercises on November 2, according to military sources.

The provocative military manoeuvres which began across South Korea with an "emergency mobilization order" are a very dangerous war gamble of "commandos" of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet army for stealthily infiltrating into the strategic interior of the northern half of Korea and capturing and making a surprise attack on main targets.

The aggressive manoeuvres will be staged for some ten days with the mobilization of special warfare units of the U.S. Army in South Korea and combined airborne special warfare units under the puppet army Special Warfare Command, and other puppet army units, police, the "homeland defence reserve forces" and the "civilian defence corps" hundreds of thousands strong in all and planes, tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery pieces, etc.

In these war exercises the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are seeking to lull the ever growing struggle of the South Korean people and students for anti-U.S. independence and anti-fascist democracy and their ardent desire for reunification and save their political crisis.

Paper Views South Ship 'Infiltrating' Waters

SK0411091890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0828 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 4 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today comments on the grave military provocation the South Korean puppets committed by illegally infiltrating a combat ship deep into our side's territorial waters on the West Sea on November 1.

The news analyst says:

The open hostile act of the puppets is all the more grave as it coincided with the criminal combined aerial exercises the U.S. imperialists frantically staged together with the puppets in the sky above South Korea by bringing fighter planes of various types and an early warning plane from their bases in the Pacific, and with the aerial espionage they conducted against the northern half of the country.

It is unpardonable criminal acts that the South Korean puppet clique illegally sent a combat ship into our side's area and staged war gambles together with U.S. imperialist masters.

The South Korean authorities, while talking about "peace" and "detente" in dialogue with us, slighted or put aside the matter of easing military confrontation, and unhesitatingly perpetrated grave military provocations after going back. Such moves of the South Korean puppets are a deliberate act to throw a wet blanket over the North-South dialogue arranged with so much care and lay an artificial obstacle in it, and it cannot be construed otherwise than an open challenge to the ardent desire of the people for reunification.

South's 'Threatening' of Church Group Denounced

SK0511115190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 5 (KCNA)—The puppet Defence Ministry of South Korea November 2 sent a letter to the Human Rights Committee of the South Korean Council of Christian Churches threatening that those who "offer" a shelter to Private Yun Sok-yang who exposed the surveillance over civilians by the "security command" or "keep" materials of the surveillance are liable to penalties, according to a report.

It urged the Council to "advise" Private Yun to "surrender himself" and return the materials of surveillance.

This is a high-handed act to suppress the just act of the religious organisation with the bayonet and punish on unjust charges the conscientious soldier who exposed its crimes to the world, and thus put down the daily growing resistance of the people by browbeating them.

It tells that the change of the "national defence minister" and "security commander" by the authorities was a deceptive drama to lull the denunciation by the public opinion and fool people.

South's 'Unpardonable' Acts in Crime War Decried

*SK0311110690 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1014 GMT 3 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 3 (KCNA)—The secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] issued Information No. 574 today, denouncing the frantic repressive campaign against the forces advocating independence, democracy and reunification launched in South Korea after the chief executive published "a special declaration of war against crimes."

Noting that the repressive campaign in South Korea has assumed proportions unprecedented in history, the information says:

The traitor No Tae-u who once committed himself to create an "era of ordinary people" declared a total war against the democratic forces and the masses. This reveals that he himself is a tyrant outdistancing the preceding fascist dictators and the present "government" of South Korea is an anti-democratic, anti-national regime.

The frantic repression after the declaration of "war against crimes" and the crackdown on the "socialist workers" union" in South Korea are unpardonable criminal acts which are conducted deliberately by the "government of the Democratic Liberal Party" landed in an internal confusion and crisis in an attempt to divert elsewhere the attention of the home and foreign public and find a way out in the intensification of fascism.

The South Korean puppet clique resorts to an open fascist repression and despicable political intrigues by employing all means and methods with its internal contradiction and feud growing acute and the "government of the sixth republic" facing crisis of destruction due to the recent case of political surveillance by the puppet security command and the leakage of the "memorandum of agreement on constitutional revision for parliamentary cabinet system."

Paper Comments on South's Political Problems

*SK0411094490 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0810 GMT 4 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 4 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the domestic trouble at the "Democratic Liberal Party," [DLP] the ruling party of South Korea.

The news analyst says:

As the Korean saying that fight is frequent at a dying home goes, the "DLP" which had been annoyed by factional fight since it was founded early this year is now troubled with the recent fight.

The fight was motivated when it was disclosed that No Tae-u, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil made a secret promise at a backroom of "Chongwadae" to share power through the "constitutional revision for the parliamentary cabinet system" during the three-party merger and when it brought about public accusation.

Appearing above the surface is the fight on the two questions: how the "note of constitutional revision for the parliamentary cabinet system" promised to keep a secret was disclosed to the press and whether they will conduct the "constitutional revision for the parliamentary cabinet system" at once or not.

The "DLP government" made it appear that a press organ robbed it and opened it to the public and talked about "investigation," but no one believe that anybody entered the "DLP" building under strict cordon to do it.

Public opinion is inclined to believe that "DLP" bosses from the "Democratic Justice Party" deliberately opened the "note" to the press.

As No Tae-u's tenure of office is near completion, there is a fear that power should be lost if the "DJP"-lining faction fails to hasten the "constitutional revision for the parliamentary cabinet system" for a legitimate machine to come into power again.

That is why the No clique announced it would force the "constitutional revision" right after the "note" was opened to the public.

Kim Yong-sam, who posed as a "head" of the democracy movement, got on the same boat with military dictator No, losing public confidence only to be torn to shreds by other faction's throat-tightening tactics within the "DLP." He dreamt of the first position of power through the "constitutional revision for the parliamentary cabinet system" by seizing the ruling party after the three-party merger when he made a secret promise at "Chongwadae," but he was frustrated in his attempt.

The recent fight, in essence, is a fight between No Tae-u and Kim Yong-sam regarding who takes the seat of "Chongwadae" in the next term.

The South Korean people are disillusioned with the "DLP" officials who are shifting the blame onto each other for the disclosure of their attempt to seize power by "secret politics," ignoring the popular masses, and are hardening a firm determination not to allow their long-term office.

The "DLP government" is precipitating its doom with their factional fight.

South's Treatment of Workers Union Denounced

*SK0611101790 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0958 GMT 6 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 6 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) published a statement Monday bitterly denouncing the No Tae-u fascist group's fabrication of the "case of the socialist workers' union (Sanomaeng)" as an anti-popular, anti-democratic criminal act marked by sheer lies and fabrication, according to radio Voice of National Salvation.

The "Sanomaeng case" is apparently a heinous drama for political suppression which was designed by the power nucleus and directly worked out by an organ concerned with an elaborate plan and one of the detailed operations for the execution of the war against the people declared by No Tae-u, the statement says, and continues:

Seeking a way out of the extreme phase of its crisis in a wholesale repressive offensive, the No fascist group openly declared a war against all the people. And it made public the "results of the investigation into Sanomaeng case" in a bid to "persuade the people" by justifying its declaration of the war and, at the same time, alienate and split the national forces of the movement for democracy and the people.

Herein lies the reason why the "security planning board" declared "Sanomaeng" an "underground organization of revolutionary socialists" and linked this case with the "National Alliance of Trade Unions" (Chonnoyop), the people's party and other national forces of the movement for democracy. It fully reveals the premeditated and vicious intention of the No Tae-u fascist clique in faking up the "Sanomaeng case".

In other words, the No fascist group, conscious of the serious ruling crisis in face of the rapid growth of the entire people's fervor for democracy and national reunification in scope and dimension, played the old game again to threaten the people with the extremist black-and- white motto "defence of the liberal democratic system or socialisation". In this way, it intended to justify the existence of the "National Security Law", the "security planning board" and the "army security command" and, at the same time, totally stifle the democratic, patriotic forces, labelling them as "socialist and ultra-leftist forces".

By declaring without any ground that "it would continue the investigation into the possibilities of Sanomaeng's links with the communist organization in the North", the No fascist group attempts to incite the caution against the North and North-South confrontation by creating the impression that "Sanomaeng" has relations with the North.

Saying that it cannot deceive the people with such old and despicable political drama, the statement clarifies the following position of Hanminjon:

The No Tae-u fascist group must immediately release all the people who have been arrested on the charge of involvement in the "Sanomaeng case" and completely stop the harsh suppression of the patriotic forces for democracy and reunification.

It must also abolish the "National Security Law", an anti-democratic, anti-reunification law without parallel, totally dissolve the "security planning board", the "army security command" and other fascist repressive tools, give up the war against the people and step down without delay, as demanded by the entire people.

We warn that if the No fascist group persistently resorts to the violent suppression of the people under the pretext of the "Sanomaeng case", going against the powerful current of democracy, it will be a suicidal act of digging its own grave.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to Gorbachev

*SK0611105090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1039 GMT 6 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 6 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of greetings today to Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, president of the USSR and general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The message reads:

I extend felicitations to you and the entire Soviet people on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The victory of the October Revolution in Russia was a historical event that ushered in a new era of the transition to socialism from capitalism.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish you and the Soviet people success in the work for defending the idea of October and the cause of Lenin, making a socio-economic progress and preserving world peace.

We believe that the traditional relations of friendship between the Korean and Soviet peoples will continue to develop.

'New Mechanism' Set for Economic Ties to Soviets

*SK0611042990 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1414 GMT 6 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 6 (KCNA)—An intergovernmental agreement on switching to a new mechanism in economic ties between the DPRK and the Soviet Union was signed in Moscow on November 2.

The agreement was signed by Vice-Premier Kim Talhyon who was heading the DPRK government trade delegation and Konstantin Katushev, minister of foreign economic relations of the Soviet Union.

Friendship Meeting Marks Soviet Revolution

SK0511115790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 5 (KCNA)—A friendship meeting was held here today on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Present there were Chairman Yang Hyong-sop of the Supreme People's Assembly, Minister of Public Health Yi Chong-yul who is chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society; Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Yi In-kyu, of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries O Mun-han, and other officials concerned.

Soviet Ambassador to Korea Gennadiy Bartoshevich was present on invitation.

The attendants appreciated a Soviet feature film and had a conversation.

Soviet Envoy Addresses News Conference

SK0511114390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 5 (KCNA)—A press conference was held at the Soviet Embassy here today on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

It was attended by newspaper, news agency and radio reporters in Pyongyang and press officials of different embassies and foreign correspondents here.

Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Bartoshevich addressed the press conference.

Official Meets PRC Foreign Ministry Delegation

SK0611111590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 6 (KCNA)—A friendship delegation of the Chinese Foreign Ministry led by Vice-Minister Liu Huaqiu arrived here today by train.

It was met at Pyongyang railway station by Cha Pong-chu, vice-minister of foreign affairs.

Joint-Venture Restaurant With PRC Described

SK0611102790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 6 (KCNA)—The grand Chongchun Restaurant located in the center of Kwangbok Street of the capital city of Pyongyang has been open since October 27.

This modern restaurant with a plottage of 10,000 square metres is run by Korea-China joint venture.

It serves Korea's famous cold noodle, noodle on the tray, barbeque, soft drinks and Chinese dishes including dumplings.

Orange, banana and other southern fruits are also served.

The restaurant can accommodate 1,700 people at a time. It has a 700-seat hall, family sections and other dining rooms.

The restaurant also arranges wedding feasts and 60th birthday feasts for customers.

It will greatly help towards improving the dietary life of the citizens and deepening ever-strengthening Korea-China friendship.

Earthquake Agreement Signed With PRC

SK0411084290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0835 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 4 (KCNA)—A 1991-1992 plan for scientific and technological exchange and cooperation between the earthquake bureau of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the State Earthquake Bureau of China was signed here today.

It was signed by director of the DPRK earthquake bureau Yi Chang-il and director of the Chinese State Earthquake Bureau Fang Zhangshun.

Delegation Returns From France, United Kingdom

SK0311235890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1504 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 3 (KCNA)—The delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] headed by Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK, returned home today by plane after participating in the world conference for One Reunification of Korea by Founding the democratic confedral republic of Koryo held in Paris.

The delegation also attended an annual convention of the Welsh Nationalist Party of Britain.

Paper Views Dominican Republic Independence

SK0311105490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 3 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today marks the 12th anniversary of the independence of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

The paper says in its article that the independence of the Commonwealth of Dominica on November 3, 1978 was a historical occasion that brought a fundamental turn in the position of the Dominican people.

It goes on:

The economy and culture of the country was on a very low level after the independence, consequent upon its long history of distress.

But the looks of the country is being changed gradually by the tireless efforts of the Dominican people. Dominica is developing friendly and cooperative relations with many countries.

Our country established diplomatic ties at ambassadorial level with it in 1979.

The friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries are developing favourably.

The Korean people hope that DPRK-Dominica friendship will further develop on good terms in the future.

The Korean people wish the Dominican people greater success in their future work for the prosperity of the country, congratulating them on the day of independence.

Libyan Representative Pays Farewell Call on Yi

SK0511121590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 5 (KCNA)—Vice-President Yi Chong-ok met and had a conversation with Asharif G. Al-kalbash [as received], secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Pyongyang, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today when the latter paid a farewell call on him.

Present on the occasion was Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Cha Pong-chu.

Kim Il-song's Reception of Visitors Reviewed

SK0611103990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 6 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received Yun I-sang, chairman of the preparatory committee of the pan-national concert for reunification, which was recently held in Pyongyang, and his party and posed for a photograph with them.

President Kim Il-song received this year more than 40 delegations of compatriots and individual compatriots including a delegation of officials of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnon), traders and industrialists under Chonnryon, a congratulatory group of Koreans in the United States, a Korean congratulatory delegate from Canada, and a congratulatory group of Koreans in the Soviet Union to celebrate the April 15, and delegates who participated in the pan-national rally.

The number of Korean compatriots of all walks of life whom he received in the last two decades among those compatriots who visited the socialist fatherland amounts to 4,600.

Among them are public figures, traders and industrialists, scientists, teachers, artistes and reverends who are devoting themselves to the patriotic work for the country and the nation and to national reunification overseas and in South Korea.

President Kim Il-song had cordial conversations with them with his tender-hearted feelings, acquainting himself with their lives and work and giving them highly important teachings, before posing for photographs with them and arranging banquets, dinners and luncheons for them.

When Choe Tok-sin who had served long at high puppet military and political positions of South Korea visited the fatherland from abroad in the concluding years of his life, the president received him, not asking his past, and showed him all affection and solicitude.

The president entrusted him with important posts including the vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland when he came for a permanent residence in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from overseas asylum. And when he died of incurable disease, the president sent a wreath in his own name and saw to it that he may be known down to the posterity as a patriotic martyr.

President Kim Il-song received Choe Hong-hui, president of the international taekwon-do federation, Sonu Hakwon, a compatriot in the United States, Kim Chong-sik, a compatriot in Canada, and other overseas compatriots who visited the motherland and gave luncheons for them.

He received the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, an advisor to the "Coalition for National Democratic Movement" of South Korea, who came to Pyongyang on March 27 last year, and posed for a significant photograph with him and called on him at a guest house to have a cordial talk with him.

He invited to a luncheon Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and his party Chong Kyong-mo and Yu Won-ho from South Korea and South Korean writer Hwang Sok-yong.

When Yim Su-kyong, a delegate of the "National Council of Student Representatives" (Chondaehyop), stopped in front of the platform and wholeheartedly made a deep bow on the day of an opening ceremony of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students, President Kim Il-song sufficiently waved his hand in return, and shared a toast with her at the banquet he arranged in honor of the participants in the festival.

Delegations Leave for PRC, Albania

*SK0311104090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1019 GMT 3 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 3 (KCNA)—A DPRK government trade delegation headed by Song Hui-chol, vice-minister of foreign trade, to visit Albania and a delegation of the international department of the C.C. [Central Committee], Workers' Party of Korea headed by its Vice-Director Kim Yang-kon and a delegation of political officials of the Korean People's Army headed by Col. Gen. Yi Pong-won to visit China left here today.

Groups Travel to Cameroon, Arrive From Moscow

*SK0511122390 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1021 GMT 5 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 5 (KCNA)—A DPRK Government economic delegation led by Chon Il-chun, vice-minister of external economic affairs, left here today by plane for Cameroon.

A delegation of the association of Korean women in Moscow led by its chairwoman Pae Liziya Petrovna arrived here today.

Kim Il-song Greets Tanzanian President

*SK0611044790 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0436 GMT 6 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 6 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings Monday to Ali Hassan Mwinyi on his reelection as president of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The message says: The outcome of the recent presidential election in your country has clearly shown the unshakable determination of the Tanzanian people to build a new just society along the road of socialism and self-reliance under your leadership.

The message expresses the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation existing between our two countries will further strengthen and develop.

Kang Hui-won Meets Mongolian Hural Delegation

*SK0611111190 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1042 GMT 6 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 6 (KCNA)—Vice-premier Kang Hui-won met and had a friendly conversation with the visiting delegation of the Executive Committee of the Ulaanbaatar Hural of People's Deputies of Mongolia headed by its Vice-chairman Lkhamsurengiin Zhavzmaa at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Vice-chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administration and Economic Guidance Committee Pak Kyu-hong was on hand.

The head of the delegation expressed the hope to develop cooperation and exchange in different fields between the capital cities of the two countries.

Expressing the belief that North and South of Korea would be reunified without fail, he stressed that the Mongolian people and citizens of Ulaanbaatar will support the struggle of the Korean people for national reunification.

WPK Secretary Meets African Party Delegations

*SK0611112590 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1035 GMT 6 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 6 (KCNA)—Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] today met and had a friendly conversation with delegations of party workers from African countries staying here.

Present there were a delegation of party workers of Guinea-Bissau headed by Joao Sediba [as received], deputy secretary of international affairs of the Central Committee of the African Party for Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, a delegation of party workers of Uganda headed by Francis Wanyina [as received], member of the National Resistance Council of Uganda and administrator of North Arua District, a delegation of workers of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front headed by L. Kadungure, director of a department of the Ministry for Political Affairs of Zimbabwe, and members of the delegation of party workers of Mozambique.

U Tal-ho, vice-director of Kim Il-song higher party school, was also present.

KCNA Reviews 6 November Pyongyang Press

*SK0611044590 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0423 GMT 6 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 6 (KCNA)—Papers here today print a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Ali Hassan Mwinyi on his reelection as president of the United Republic of Tanzania.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article which says that in the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song called a meeting of underground political workers and chiefs of revolutionary organizations at Taksanggol, Pungni-ri, Onsong County, and imbued the revolutionary organizations and people in the homeland with the conviction of victory and the idea of achieving the independence through self-reliance.

MINJU CHOSON writes that President Kim Il-song kindly guided the officials of the Songjin steel complex to properly direct production.

NODONG SINMUN reports that congratulatory telegrams and letters came to the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea on its 45th birthday.

Papers editorially call for lifting the great revolutionary upsurge to a higher tide.

Highlighted in papers are reports about the innovative successes made by the working people in production and construction in different sectors of the national economy.

MINJU CHOSON runs an article introducing the Taechon power stations, a grand monumental structure of the Workers' Party age, which was successfully built in the Korean way of developing hydraulic resources.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article entitled "Essential Advantages of Our People's Socialist Cultural Life."

It is reported in the press that the first preliminary talks for the normalization of Korea-Japan relations was held in Beijing, a plan for scientific and technological exchange and cooperation was signed between the earthquake bureau of Korea and China and an intergovernmental agreement on economic ties between Korea and the Soviet Union was signed.

Included in the South Korean news columns of the press are reports that many students in Seoul held protests against the No Tae-u group's scheme for long-term office and rectors and professors of private normal colleges of South Korea rejected the reactionary examination system for appointment of teachers.

NODONG SINMUN carries letters sent by woman student Yim Su-kyong in prison to her fellow students under the title "'Flower of Reunification' Remaining Fragrant in the Minds of Fellow Countrymen" (3).

MINJU CHOSON carries an article by its press group, which has been to Seoul to cover the North-South reunification soccer game, on the South Korean authorities' moves to prevent reunion of blood relations during its stay.

NODONG SINMUN edits the last instalment of an article on the political surveillance by the South Korean "Army Security Command."

Active support to the Korean people's struggle for national reunification was voiced by international organizations and various countries, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN reports that functions were held and mass media published articles in different countries to mark the 45th anniversary of the foundation of the WPK.

Papers give an account of a friendship meeting held in Pyongyang and an account of a press conference held at the Soviet Embassy on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

It is reported in NODONG SINMUN that an audio tape "Songs of the Chinese People's Volunteers" was produced and a new book on the war for resisting America and aiding Korea was published in China. It informs the readers of economic and cultural construction in Iran, India, Egypt, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Nepal, Namibia and Trinidad and Tobago.

Workers Lauded for Fulfilling 7-Year Plans

SK0511113990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 5 (KCNA)—The hitters of their targets of the Third Seven-Year Plan (1987-1993) are growing in number in Korea.

The Pyongyang No. one long distance transport team, the Yangdok forestry station, the Maengsan coal mine in South Pyongan Province and other factories and enterprises have honored recently their 7-year commitments three years and six months ahead of schedule. Over 20 factories and enterprises, some 200 workshops and workteams an some 3,000 workers have so far fulfilled the third 7-year assignments.

The Unchon pharmaceutical factory in South Hwanghae Province, the Yongsong daily necessaries factory in Pyongyang and many other industrial establishments beat their seven-year goals in less than three years.

Paek Sol, a spinner of the Sariwon textile mill, fulfilled her 7-year quota in two year and eight months.

The yarn produced by her in the past 20 years is enough to weave 9,382,000 metres of fabrics.

Young men and women are playing the main role in overfulfilling the Third 7-Year Plan.

Entering this year, "youth torch prize for carrying out the Third 7-Year Plan" was awarded to the primary committees of the League of Socialist Working Youth of over 40 industrial establishments and cooperative farms.

During the period of fulfilling their plans, young people of factories and enterprises introduced into production thousands of inventions and rationalisation proposals.

The Yi Kyong-yop tunnelling team, the Taehyang pit, the Taehyang coal mine of the Anju District coal mining complex and the Yi Kui-kuk mining team and Yi Yong-ho mining team of the Hyoksin pit, the Nampung mine of the Komdok mining complex toppled their seven year goals in two years.

O Yong-ae, a reeling worker of the Kusong textile mill, carried out her seven-year assignments in one year and three months and did work for 13 years in three years.

Chagang Province Commemorates Kim Il-song Visit

*SK0411000090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1506 GMT 3 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 3 (KCNA)—A meeting was held in Kanggye today upon the lapse of 40 years since the great leader President Kim Il-song visited Chagang Province during the Fatherland Liberation War and brought about a great turn for the victory in the war.

In his report Yi Pong-kil, chief secretary of the Chagang Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Chagang Provincial People's Committee, said that in Kosanjin in November 1950 President Kim Il-song put forward strategic and tactical policies for overcoming the rigorous tests and winning the final victory in the war and wisely led the struggle for their materialization.

The reporter stressed that President Kim Il-song called a meeting of the Political Committee of the party Central Committee to further enhance the function and role of the party, rally the people of all strata closely around the party and vigorously mobilize them for the victory in the war and that he directed the work for preparing powerful reserves and forming the second front in the enemy rear.

He convened the Third Plenary Meeting of the WPK Central Committee in Hyangha-ri, Changgang County, on December 21, 1950, and delivered a historical report "The Present Situation and the Immediate Tasks" which clearly indicated correct orientation and ways for winning a new victory in the revolution, the reporter said.

President Kim Il-song, he added, took decisive steps to bring about a radical turn for the victory in the war and, at the same time, illumined a bright prospect for the post-war rehabilitation and construction and took care of our people's life with a paternal love.

Meeting Commemorates Kwangju Student Uprising

*SK0411001490 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1511 GMT 3 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 3 (KCNA)—A meeting of Pyongyang youth and students was held here today to mark the 61st anniversary of the Kwangju student incident.

In his report, Choe Hyon-tok, chairman of the Korean student committee, noted that the massive Kwangju student incident broke out when Japanese students insulted a Korean girl student in a Kwangju-Naju train on November 3, 1929.

He continued:

The fierce flames of the anti-Japanese struggle kindled by students spread like a prairie fire all over the country in a moment.

The Kwangju student incident fanned the hatred of the Korean students and people for the Japanese imperialist aggressors, dealt a heavy blow at the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule and preparations for aggression on the continent and powerfully demonstrated that no one could ruthlessly trample down the dignity of the Korean nation with a long history and brilliant culture and no suppression of aggressors could put down the indomitable fighting spirit and patriotic stamina of the Korean students.

Although more than 60 years have elapsed since the Kwangju student incident for anti-imperialist independence, Korea has failed to establish the nation's sovereignty on a nationwide scale.

In order to restore the lost national independence in South Korea and achieve the reunification of the country, it is imperative, above all, to force the U.S. imperialist aggression forces to withdraw and put an end to their colonial rule, the reporter said.

If the South Korean authorities are interested at least in the promotion of the North-South relations and the progress of the dialogue, he noted, they must give up the campaign for unilateral "U.N. membership", stop the annual "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and take a practical step for the release of the visitors to the North including coed Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyu-hyon.

He said that students and people of all walks of life in South Korea must oppose and reject the splittist "two Koreas" plot of the splittists at home and abroad and turn out in accomplishing the noble cause of founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo, closely united under the banner of national reunification.

Builders of Houses on Tongil Street Interviewed

*SK0411113290 Pyongyang Domestic Service
in Korean 1200 GMT 3 Nov 90*

[Text] This report has come from the house construction site on Tongil Street, where the flames of the struggle to create the new speed of the nineties are being vigorously raised. Builders of the Pyongyang General Textile Plant Battalion of No. 12 Youth Construction Brigade for Building the Capital are collectively scoring upsurges, thus daily bringing about great achievements in building houses assigned to them. Central Broadcasting Station reporter Kim Tok-hwan met Comrade Chon Sung-kun, chief of staff of the Pyongyang General Textile Plant Battalion; Comrade Yi In-song, commander of the Second Company; Comrade Yi Song-il, leader of the First Platoon of the First Company, at the construction site.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Kim Tok-hwan] We are hearing new stories from the house construction site at Tongil Street. What proud stories do you have in this Pyongyang General Textile Plant Battalion?

[First speaker] All the builders of our Pyongyang General Textile Plant are accelerating the house construction assigned to us in step with the rapid speed with which houses are being built at Tongil Street. We completed the fabrication of the structure of No. 7-13 Building last August. We are putting finishing touches on the building these days. I will explain the status of the building's interior and exterior work. We are carrying out [words indistinct] and the work of fixing lagging materials on the exterior two to three times faster than we used to. Generally speaking, we have completed 60 percent of the interior work. We are vigorously carrying out the interior work.

[Reporter Kim] I heard that the Pyongyang General Textile Plant Battalion is also tasked with another project.

[Second speaker] That is correct. Even while vigorously carrying out the interior work of No. 7-13 Building, we were newly assigned to the construction of the 96 houses of the 16-storied No. 8-4 Building and are carrying out this construction project at the same time. We started the construction of No. 8-4 Building on 25 September. We completed the groundwork in just five days. Immediately after this, we started the fabrication of [words indistinct]. As you see, we are carrying out construction in earnest. We have finished the fabrication of the third-floor structure and are carrying out the [word indistinct] of the fourth floor. We are working with a resolve to finish the fabrication of the structure of this building before the end of this month.

[Reporter Kim] I think that builders are very enthusiastic.

[Third speaker] That is right. Of course, our task is enormous. It is important to be strong-willed in carrying out any task, is it not? We are proud that we have finished the fabrication of the structure of No. 7-13 Building. With this experience, we will successfully carry out the construction of No. 8-4 Building. [end recording]

Hungnam Fertilizer Complex Rebuilt, Expanded

*SK0511223990 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1509 GMT 5 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 5 (KCNA)—The reconstruction and expansion project of the Hungnam fertilizer complex is being stepped up.

The construction of dust coal gas generator and the methanol production system has been completed and their test operation has begun. Several projects such as the introduction of large-sized compounding tank, installation of a 4,000 hp compressor, increase of electrolysers and the production process of undiluted sulfuric acid are being accelerated at fast speed.

A large-size compounding tank and a purifying tank have taken shape and the construction project has entered the last stage. Compressors Nos. 1 and 2 have been installed. The Yongsong general bureau of machine industry in charge of making equipment has manufactured the large-sized compounding tank and the 4,000 hp compressor in a short time.

Innovations are being effected in the construction of the undiluted sulfuric acid production process and the manufacture of equipment for increasing electrolysers.

Over 20,000 Families Move to New Housing

*SK0311104690 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1009 GMT 3 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 3 (KCNA)—Housing construction is making fast progress in local cities and counties of Korea.

More than 20,000 families have moved to new houses in local cities and counties over the last three months.

New residential streets have appeared in many cities including Sunchon, South Pyongan Province, Sinuiju, North Pyongan Province, and Tanchon, South Hamgyong Province, and villages of calcium silicate brick houses have taken shape in the rural communities across the country.

The floor space of the house for each family is 90-120 square metres.

Building-material bases have been built in large numbers in local cities and counties of Korea, which guarantee the extensive construction of dwelling houses.

Complete Collection of Korean Music Published

*SK0211231190 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1508 GMT 2 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 2 (KCNA)—The literary and Art Publishing House of Korea has brought out "Complete Collection of Korean Music" (vol.7) of late.

Contained in it are 432 pieces of famous songs composed under the guidance of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il in the period from 1982 to 1987.

"Sunrise on River Taedong", "Party's Sunrays," "Walking the Field Path Treaded by the Leader" and many other songs sing in excited tones the imperishable feats performed by the party and the leader devoting their all to the people.

Among the impressive songs are "My Country is the Land of Singlehearted Unity", "My Vibrant Motherland," "Heart in Weaving Flower Silk".

Also contained in it are many songs showing the optimistice life of people's army soldiers and songs on the theme of national reunification.

CPC Decree Renames 60 Universities

*SK0311045990 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0448 GMT 3 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 3 (KCNA)—The Central People's Committee [CPC] of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea adopted a decree on renaming some universities.

According to the decree dated October 31, the Central People's Committee decided to rename some universities after battle sites and historical places associated with the glorious revolutionary history and immortal revolutionary exploits of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the Workers' Party of Korea and the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters and patriotic martyrs.

Sixty universities were renamed, for instance, Pyongyang University of Education is named after Kim Chol-chu, Hoenyong Teachers Training University after Kim Chong-suk, Hamnam University of Education No.1 after Kim Hyong-kwon, Sinuiju University of Education No.1 after Cha Kwang-su, Wonsan University of Economics after Chong Chun-taek, Hyesan University of Mining is to be called Pochonbo University of Technology, Kanggye University of Education No.1 Changjasan University, Wonsan University of Medicine Songdowon University, Hamhung University of Pharmacy Koryo University of Pharmacy, Sinuiju University of Agriculture Manpung University, Nampo University of Fisheries Sohae University, and Pyongyang Unviersity of Phyisical Education Korea University of Physical Education.

NODONG SINMUN Stresses Party Leadership

SK0411101490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0818 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 4 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a by-lined article titled "Party Leadership is Decisive Guarantee of Strengthening the Driving Force of Socialist Cause and Increasing Its Role".

In his work "The Workers' Party of Korea is the Organizer and Guider of All Victories for Our People" dear Comrade Kim Chong-il expounded a profound idea that the party leadership is vital to the socialist cause and elaborated on its decisive significance in strengthening the driving force of the socialist cause.

The article quotes dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Party leadership is the decisive guarantee of strengthening the driving force of the socialist cause and increasing its role."

Lying in strengthening the driving force of the socialist cause in every way and increasing its role are the wisdom of our party leadership and the basic key to the strengthening and development of our socialism into a solid and vital socialism, the article notes, and stresses:

What is most important in our party's leadership for strengthening the driving force of the socialist cause and increasing its role is that it has fully equipped the entire people with the chuche idea, closely rallied them around the leader organizationally and ideologically and in sense of morality and obligation, thus making them a socio-political organism.

If the popular masses are to be a reliable driving force of the socialist cause, they should be closely united around the party organizationally and ideologically on the basis of the revolutionary idea of the working class, the idea of the leader.

The solid, singlehearted unity of our party and people is the most solid and vital unity based on the popular masses' absolute trust in and boundless loyalty to the party and the leader.

With the strength of this unity, our socialist cause is vigorously advancing along the road chosen by itself.

It is also important in our party's leadership for strengthening the driving force of the socialist cause and increasing its role that it is working constant miracles and innovations in socialist construction by giving full scope to the inexhaustible creativity of the popular masses.

To strengthen the driving force and increase its role is, in the long run, aimed at accelerating socialist construction.

Therefore, the party which is building socialism should push ahead with the revolution and construction by bringing the strength of the popular masses into full play.

Our party has ever dynamically accelerated the revolution and construction, believing in the popular masses and relying on their creativity.

Thanks to our party's leadership for giving full scope to the creativity of the popular masses, the entire people of our country are now devoting their all strength [as received] and wisdom to socialist construction and, in this course, upholding the honor of being the pioneer of miracles and innovations and creator of heroic feats.

Today in our country enormous, world-startling miracles have been wrought and matchless mass heroism fully displayed under the leadership of our party which enhances the self-consciousness of the popular masses and carries on all work with their concerted efforts in socialist construction.

We, with a great pride of being guided by the great and tested party leading the socialist cause of chuche to victory, must win greater victory in socialst construction, united closely around the party and the leader, the article stresses.

NODONG SINMUN on Advantages of Socialism

SK0611105990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 6 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today runs a by-lined article entitled "Essential Advantages of Our People's Socialist Cultural Life".

In his historical policy speech "Let Us Bring the Advantages of Socialism in Our Country Into Full Play", the great leader comrade Kim Il-song, basing himself on the chuche idea, gave an overall exposition of the essential characteristics of socialist cultural life and of the advantages of socialist life of the Korean people in the cultural domain.

The paper quotes Comrade Kim Il-song as teaching:

"The essential characteristic of socialist cultural life distinguishing it from capitalist cultural life that makes people degenerate and poisons them with maladies lies in the fact that it enables people to meet their intrinsic desire for continuous mental and physical development and encourages them all to create and enjoy culture."

Pointing out that socialist cultural life has an essential characteristic fundamentally different from capitalist cultural life, the paper says:

The essential characteristic of socialist cultural life lies, first of all, in that it enables people to meet their intrinsic demand for constant mental and physical development.

Only when man leads a cultural life that meets his intrinsic demand can he become a social being who is prepared mentally and physically. But, when he lives a cultural life unworthy of a human being, his life will be little short of a dead man's, his consciousness of independence being paralyzed and his spirit and body being disabled.

Capitalist cultural life is an anti-popular cultural life which degenerates and poisons people with maladies to the extreme. Capitalists are frantically spreading reactionary, anti-popular ideas, culture and corrupt bourgeois way of life in order to paralyze the independent consciousness of the working masses of the people and subordinate them to the capitalist exploiter system.

Only when people lead the socialist cultural life which thoroughly defends and reflects the requirements and interests of the popular masses can they fully meet their desire for continuous mental and physical development.

The essential characteristic of socialist cultural life lies, next, in that it encourages the entire people to create and enjoy culture.

The working masses are masters, creators and full enjoyers of all the cultural institutions and cultural assets in the socialist society, contrary to the capitalist society in which capitalists monopolize all the cultural institutions and assets including education, science, literature and art and the press and use them as a means of money-making.

The essential characteristics of socialist cultural life find fullest manifestations in our country, which is an important superiority of our socialism, the paper says, and continues:

First of all, in our country, all the people grow into universally-developed men of new type, studying all their life with complete rights to and freedom of learning under the free compulsory educational system.

Our people enjoy good health and long life under the free medical care and popular policies.

The Korean people display their wisdom and talent and enjoy rich cultural and emotional life to their heart's content while creating socialist culture and art. This is an important superiority of socialist cultural life of the Korean people.

The Korean people live a harmonious life with noble morality and struggle with pride in life and conviction of the future, free from all descriptions of social evils. This finds concentric expression what height their socialist cultural life has reached.

The noble spiritual and moral life of the Korean people who are giving full play to the communistic trait of morality and life in a great harmonious family on the principle of "one for all and all for one" is the superior life which represents the essential characteristics and demands of the socialist society.

Party Leadership of Socialist Cause Stressed

SK2910002090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0000 GMT 21 Oct 90

[NODONG SINMUN 21 October special article: "The Deepening and Developing of a Theory on Strengthening the Party's Leadership in Carrying Out the Socialist Cause"]

[Text] Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's recent document entitled "The Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] is the Organizer and Guide of All Our People's Victories" is a historic document that has explained the true way to strengthen the party and enhance its leadership role according the demands of the times and the developing revolution.

The theoretical and practical questions that arise in party-building and party activities—ranging from the inevitable party leadership in implementing the socialist cause, to principles and tasks which arise in strengthening the chuche-type revolutionary party and basic ways of implementing the party's mission and duty as a political organization with a leadership role—are fully explained in the document.

The need to strengthen the party's leadership in carrying out the socialist cause occupies an important place among the immortal ideological and theoretical treasures stated in the document.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and party Central Committee secretary, has noted: The party's leadership is the lifeline of the socialist cause.

Strengthening the party's leadership is a crucial guarantee for consummating the socialist cause to the end. The socialist cause is to be explored, advanced, and consummated by the party leadership. No matter how far the revolution may have advanced, and no matter how successfully socialist construction may have been implemented, the party's leadership should never be weakened.

The party's leadership ability is at once the driving power behind the socialist cause. If the party's leadership is weakened, the socialist cause can never advance, thereby resulting in loss of the revolutionary gains already attained. The destiny of the socialist cause depends on that of the party.

Furthermore, under conditions in which the imperialists concentrate their arrows on changing the party's nature, the guiding force, as part of their opposition to socialism, strengthening the party's leadership is key to defending, safeguarding, and developing the socialist cause.

Based on a scientific analysis of the essential nature of the socialist cause, the experiences acquired and the lessons taught by the international communist movement, and the true colors of the imperialists' antisocialist maneuvers, dear Comrade Kim Chong-il has stated in his document his unique idea on the need to strengthen the party's leadership in all directions.

This way he has provided firm guiding principles which enable the revolutionary party to fulfill its mission and has clearly explained a way to consummate the socialist cause, thereby dealing a severe blow to the imperialists, who are frantically carrying out their antisocialist maneuvers.

In the document, the profound idea that the party's leadership is the lifeline of the socialist cause has been stated clearly, and evidence supporting this idea has been fully cited. The document, above all, has noted the inevitability of the party's leadership based on a profound analysis of the standing and role of chuche in implementing the socialist cause.

The socialist cause is a revolutionary one, implemented by the popular masses who have emerged as history's first independent beings. The fashioning and development of the main force behind the revolution is at once the process of exploring, developing, and consummating the socialist cause.

It is not easy to make the popular masses—who, despite being the creators of history have long been kept outside it—powerfully independent and capable of exploring their own destiny independently and creatively. It can be carried out only under the leadership of a party of the working class.

The main force behind the revolution is a sociopolitical organic body in which the popular masses are firmly united around the leader with one ideology and one organization. In the sociopolitical organic body, the leader is the brains while the party is the backbone.

Only under the party's leadership can the popular masses have their consciousness raised, become organized, and firmly unite around the leader. This has been proved clearly through our people's practical history.

It was the wise leadership of our party center, led by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song, that has made our people independent beings capable of energetically propelling society and the revolution as the true masters of their own destiny.

Our party has united the revolutionary ranks as a sociopolitical organic body by firmly arming all the people with the chuche idea and firmly rallying them around the leader organizationally, ideologically, morally, and with a sense of obligation.

As a result, today in our country the WPK stands firmly at the heart of the revolutionary ranks and popular masses who have overcome all difficulties in the course of a protracted revolutionary struggle in which they shared the same fate with the party. They are now firmly united as one around the party and leader.

The role of the popular masses which carry out the socialist cause is also guaranteed by the party's leadership. The powerful driving force behind socialist construction stems from the popular masses' political and ideological strength, their self-awakened zeal, and creative activism.

The popular masses' political and ideological strength is an expression of their awareness of their role as the masters of the revolution and a high form of self-awakening in which they truly accept the socialist cause as their own work. This is inconceivable apart from the party leadership that educates the masses to remold them.

The party's leadership is the source of the popular masses' political and ideological strength.

The idea explained in the document—that implementing the socialist cause is the process of strengthening and developing the main force behind the revolution, which is realized and developed under the party's leadership—has more profoundly explained the fact that the party's leadership is the lifeline when it comes to implementing the socialist cause.

The document has also deepened and developed the idea and theories on the role the party plays in carrying out the socialist cause, based on the significance of a correct strategy and tactics for struggle.

The socialist cause is a difficult and complicated struggle to sweep away all legacies which trample the popular masses' independence and create new things in history's long course. This is a cause that, by nature, is to be accompanied by a serious class struggle, as well as the blazing of untrodden paths.

The socialist cause, therefore, should be based on a correct strategy and tactics for struggle. Only then can this cause victoriously explore its own path with the help of clear direction and methods.

The strategic and tactical leadership of the cause can be executed only by the party of the working class. Of course, a socialist society has many other political organizations, such as the state government, along with a party. Without the party, however, all other organizations and institutions are incapable of realizing their strategic and tactical leadership over society and the revolution.

The party is a vanguard and organization of the highest form, as well as the revolution's staff office. No other organizations or institutions can substitute for the standing and role of the party that, as the revolution's staff office, presents correct strategy and tactics for socialist construction and organizes and leads the struggle for their implementation.

The party of the working class is the only organization that has been created with a mission to fulfill policy-oriented, strategic, and tactical leadership over the society and the revolution and is equipped with the ability to realize this.

The correct lines and policy of our party have enabled the socialist cause to vigorously advance on a single path toward victory, without experiencing any twists, turns, or deviation—our country. After presenting chuche-oriented lines and policies corresponding to our people's aspirations and the reality in our country at every period and stage of the revolution and construction, our party has organized and mobilized the entire population for their implementation.

Because our party's lines and policies have always been correct, our people have been able to advance along the straightforward road to socialism with firm conviction, without experiencing the slightest deviation or twists and turns, creating miracles and changes that stunned the people of the world.

The idea stated in the document, which has explained the major role the party plays in implementing the socialist cause based on the significance and importance of correct strategy and tactics for struggle, has further developed and enriched the idea and theories on the inevitability of the party's leadership.

This idea has revealed more clearly the truth that, without a party presenting correct lines and policies, the socialist cause is unable to advance, no matter how far the revolution may have advanced, and that the party of the working class should lead the socialist cause by formulating and implementing correct lines and policies.

The document has also explained the importance of adhering to the revolutionary principles in carrying out the socialist cause and has logically proved the inevitability of the party's leadership based on the former.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, has noted: The party's leadership is an indispensable requirement necessary to consistently maintain and completely embody the revolutionary principles in the whole course of carrying out the socialist cause.

The main characteristics of the socialist cause lies in its revolutionary principles. The socialist cause is distinguished from other social movements for its revolutionary principles, and it explores its path based on the justness and vitality of these principles.

The history of the revolutionary struggle shows that the socialist cause can advance, overcoming all difficulties and ordeals, if it adheres to the revolutionary principles. But it also can lose its color and stop halfway once it abandons those revolutionary principles.

To adhere to the revolutionary principles in the socialist construction means defending and embodying to the end the basic independent demands and interests of the working class and working masses. The environment and conditions for struggle may change in the course of socialist construction, but there should not be any change in the basic demands and position of the popular masses, who are determined to realize independence.

To consummate the socialist cause, it is imperative to consistently maintain the revolutionary principles necessary for defending and embodying the popular masses' independence.

The popular masses' independent demands and interests can be firmly maintained and realized only under the leadership of a party of the working class. The working class is the one which embodies independence in its highest form and struggles to realize the independent demands and interests of the popular masses more resolutely than any other class or sector.

The working class and its party do not have any demands or interests other than those of the popular masses, and the class mission of the party of the working class lies in completely defending and realizing the demands and interests of the popular masses.

In keeping the revolutionary principles in the course of socialist construction, we should express this, most importantly, in our approach to the imperialists' anti-socialist maneuvers. The imperialists' counterrevolutionary maneuvers, designed to undermine and eliminate the socialist cause, can be successfully smashed only by the fundamental struggle of the party of the working class.

The stronger the imperialists' counterrevolutionary, antisocialist offensive of infringing upon the independent interests of the popular masses grew, the more resolutely our party has defended and carried out its revolutionary principles. Thanks to the leadership of our party, which has resolutely defended its revolutionary principles, our people have been able to tirelessly advance along the single revolutionary path under the loftily raised banner of socialism, even under the unprecedented, complicated, and acute circumstances in which the imperialists, including the U.S., concentrated their offensives on them.

Even today, our revolution continues a long drive, taking advantage of victory, without experiencing the slightest deviation, all thanks to the fundamental struggle waged by our party.

The idea that notes the importance of adhering to the revolutionary principles in the process of carrying out the socialist cause and the inevitability of the party's leadership based on that conclusion is a great idea that has stated anew the essential nature and characteristics of the socialist cause and the essential substance of the party's leadership.

This profound clarification has proved more clearly the truth that the key to consummating the socialist cause lies in defending the revolutionary principles and that it needs, as an indispensable requirement, the leadership of a party that adheres to the revolutionary principles under any conditions and circumstances to consummate the socialist cause.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's idea about the party leadership being the lifeline of the socialist cause has clarified more profoundly the fundamental truth that without the party's leadership, there can be no socialist cause, and that the party's leadership and the socialist cause are united as one. It also has scientifically explained the substance and fundamental truth of the party's leadership over the socialist cause.

As a result, it has provided a mighty guiding principle capable of decisively launching a counterattack against all manner of counterrevolutionary maneuvers and of defending the socialist banner to the end.

Indeed, the document "The WPK Is the Organizer and Guide of All of Our People's Victories" is an immortal revolutionary document that has given scientific answers to the urgent questions raised by the times and the revolution.

We should consummate the socialist cause to the end under the party's leadership by completely embodying the idea and theories explained in the document, regarding them as our own flesh and bone.

* Light Industry, Consumer Goods Highlighted

* 3 August Production Movement

902C0312A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 3 Aug 90 p 3

[Article by Myong Hung-suk: "Abundant Results, Proud Successes"]

[Text] Six years have passed since the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il gave on-the-spot guidance at the Light Industry Commodities Exhibition on 3 August 1984.

From the time it was initiated by the party, the 3 August consumer goods production movement, a broad-based mass movement to effectively mobilize and utilize inner reserves among the masses and expand the production of various people's consumer goods on their own initiative, has had a great attraction and influence while contributing greatly to raising the people's standard of living. During the past six years, across the country the volume of sales and circulation of direct outlet stores for 3 August people's consumer goods has soared and the number of basic kinds of consumer goods has increased from some 4,000 to an expanded total of some 10,000 kinds. During this period the ranks of 3 August people's consumer goods producers has grown by several hundred thousand. In all cities and counties across the country factories, enterprises, 3 August people's consumer goods work teams, tong [ward] household work teams, and rural village sideline teams producing 3 August people's consumer goods exclusively have been systematically set up and the ranks of household convenience service workers is growing by the day.

Today, 3 August people's consumer goods production has been continuously expanding production bases so as to meet the people's material and cultural needs, which have been growing day by day. In particular, the number of kinds of commodities has become diversified and the proportion of everyday general merchandise and sundries in 3 August people's consumer goods production has grown incomparably. By setting up several thousand new consumer goods production bases and making tens of thousands of pieces of plant equipment, lathes, and jigs by their own efforts and using them in the production of consumer goods, Pyongyang City has raised consumer production to a high level by using its own efforts without a great investment from the state.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK [Workers Party of Korea], pointed out as follows:

"The movement for production of 3 August People's consumer goods initiated by our party is proving its worth in accomplishing the light industry revolution."

On that vividly inspiring 3 August 1984, the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il personally gave on-the-spot guidance to the Light Industry Commodities Exhibition.

He said that the light industry products made by the central light industry factories and the local industry factories were fine, but that he wanted to take a look at the consumer goods that had been manufactured in the urban districts and counties by searching out and mobilizing inner reserves such as scraps and by-products, and he walked in that direction.

The dear Comrade Kim Chong-il looked over and evaluated one by one the commodities displayed by district and county and taught the functionaries specific methods to use, with respect to consumer goods production and carrying out sales.

Looking back on it that day's exhibition was a meaningful exhibition that was realized by upholding the lofty intent of the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

It was long before the exhibit opened.

The dear Comrade Kim Chong-il discovered in a certain district of Pyongyang City the prototype for producing people's consumer goods of loyalty with scrap materials and by-products and he directed that it be promoted and developed on a nationwide basis. Actually, until that time, while large-scale factories in the capital and small and medium scale local industries had developed by leaps and bounds, large amounts of scrap materials and by-products had resulted and there were many hidden reserves everywhere, no one had even thought about utilizing them effectively and expanding consumer goods production into a mass movement.

However, at that time the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il already saw in that small prototype vast reserves that no one had ever discovered and he developed the grand design for bringing about a great transformation in the field of people's consumer goods production.

On that very day, while providing on-the-spot guidance to the Light Industry Commodities Exhibition, he unfolded the design he had personally been developing. The dear Comrade Kim Chong-il set forth programmatic tasks concerning mobilizing inner reserves and potentials to the maximum and producing in a mass movement everyday necessities of various kinds to meet the aesthetic sensibilities of the times and the people's tastes and he explained clearly the precise directions and methods for achieving this.

The historic on-the-spot guidance of the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il given at the 3 August Light Industry Commodities Exhibition served as a meaningful beginning of this consumer goods production movement and it spread vigorously across the entire land. The 3 August people's consumer goods production struggle spread vigorously everywhere. In a single year, some 7,000 more 3 August people's consumer goods production workshops and work teams were set in factories and enterprises throughout the country and in only half a year consumer goods production rose sharply.

In May of 1986, when the consumer goods movement had spread into a mass movement and production levels had grown by leaps and bounds, the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il once again provided on-the-spot guidance concerning the work of 3 August people's consumer goods direct sales outlets in Pyongyang City.

On that day he said that the direct sales outlets had been a great help in raising the living standards of the citizens of the capital by selling many people's consumer goods of various types. He said that this proves the soundness and vitality of the party's guideline concerning vigorously launching the light industry revolution and the service revolution as a mass movement.

Even afterwards the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il continued to solve problems large and small in expanding and developing the production of 3 August people's consumer goods and adopted all necessary measures to vigorously push forward this work without deflection.

Doing so, he highly evaluated all the successes achieved in the production of 3 August people's consumer goods—which he credited to the functionaries and consumer goods producers who organized this work—and sent the thanks and messages of appreciation of the party Central Committee on several occasions and honored many functionaries with state decorations.

In order to repay with loyalty and party's high trust and consideration, city and county functionaries and consumer goods producers throughout the country briskly launched competitions to capture the title of Exemplary County (City, District) in the Production of 3 August People's Consumer Goods.

Winners were not only Pyongchon-kuyok, Songyo-kuyok and Taedonggang-kuyok in Pyongyang, Songchongang-kuyok in Hamhung, and Kangso-kuyok in Nampo—which had already been among the first to win the title of Exemplary District in the Production of 3 August People's Consumer Goods by standing in the forefront of this movement.

Upholding the teachings of the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il concerning the party organizations grasping this work and pushing it forward, the functionaries, including responsible functionaries of each city and county party committee, with revolutionary spirit, party spirit, working class spirit, and people-minded spirit, provided substantive guidance to the struggle for the production of people's consumer goods. By so doing, the people's consumer production movement prominently displayed its vitality each day.

Pyongyang City stood in the forefront of the entire country and created experiences and generalized them nationwide, serving as the model in the struggle to produce 3 August people's consumer goods.

Recently, in outlying districts of Pyongyang such as Mangyongdae-kuyok, Sadong-kuyok, and Hyongjesan-kuyok, functionaries made up their minds and got down to business, filled with the conviction that they could find reserves everywhere. They set up high goals and are moving forward in high spirits.

The vigorous flames of the struggle to produce 3 August people's consumer goods which are burning in Pyongyang City are vigorously being spread to even counties in mountainous districts, fishing villages, and workers settlements in a mass movement. This work is being carried out particularly well in South Pyongan and South Hamgyong Provinces. The responsible functionaries of the South Pyongan Province party committee have planted the intent of the party deep in the hearts of the masses. They are launching political work in novel ways to enlighten the masses and are seeing to it that all workers in the province advance with the pride and dignity of being 3 August people's consumer goods producers.

The functionaries of Kaechon County are doing a good job of setting up consumer goods showrooms and retail outlets to suit the characteristics of the county and are systematically expanding the production bases and putting them in the ranks of the foremost units on a county-wide basis. In Sinyang and Yangdok Counties also they have made good use of the mountains, are brilliantly setting up their own production bases that can produce mountain fruits and wood products and are smoothly pushing forward the production of consumer goods. The functionaries of Pukchong County in South Hamgyong Province were aware of the fact that the problem of expanding the production base is an important key to continuously develop this movement. They got down to business and, even though there was no central industry foundation, they brilliantly set up several bases for production of such things as steel daily products, household goods, and children's shoes.

All functionaries and consumer goods producers from all parts of the country including North Hamgyong Province, Kangwon Province, and Nampo City have the conviction that if the party makes its decision they will carry it through, and they are vigorously lighting the flames of the movement to win the title of Exemplary County (City, District) in the Production of 3 August People's Consumer Goods. Indeed, the 3 August people's consumer goods production, which is regarded so intimately among the people, the 3 August people's consumer goods production sector, which is continuously being expanded as a mass movement today, is continuously developing into an important sector we cannot do without in our daily lives.

With the lofty spirit of loyalty and revolutionary fervor of the people, the 3 August people's consumer goods production movement will highly display its might and vitality with each passing day.

* Consumer Goods Increasing

902C0312B Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 3 Aug 90 p 3

[Article by correspondent Yu Myong-hang: "Consumer Goods Production in a Mass Movement"]

[Text] Highly upholding the letter sent by the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il to the participants in the National Light Industry Conference and rushing forward as one to the struggle for its implementation, Kaesong City functionaries and 3 August people's consumer goods producers are actively seeking out and mobilizing inner reserves in a mass movement and dramatically increasing the production of consumer goods.

With the flames of the light industry revolution burning brightly, functionaries and people's consumer goods producers here have firmly put the priority on technical preparations for utilizing to the maximum various kinds of by-products and scrap materials. By tightly managing their production process they are raising production 1.2 fold over that of last year and continuously expanding the kinds of products.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK [Workers Party of Korea], pointed out as follows:

"In the light industry sector we must launch a struggle to make everyday necessities of the people more varied, sturdy, and stylish, using the abundant raw materials in our country."

Under the guidance of the party organization, functionaries of the Kaesong Municipal Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee's 3 August People's Consumer Goods Guidance Office and functionaries of the city's Household Work Team Management Center, are going among the people's consumer goods producers and explaining in easy-to-understand terms the contents of the letter sent by the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il to the participants of the National Light Industry Conference and linking this intimately with the accomplishment of the tasks set forth at the factories. On the other hand, they are also increasing production and economizing and concretely planning and carrying out economic organization work in order to further increase the production of people's consumer goods.

In mid-July, taking people's consumer goods produced by utilizing various kinds of by-products and scrap materials in accordance with the demands of the party, they organized a city-wide 3 August People's Consumer Goods Exhibition. By having responsible functionaries of the city's party and administrative economic organs, senior functionaries of factories and enterprises, and the producers of consumer goods participate, they greatly encouraged and motivated them to the struggle to further increase the production of people's consumer goods.

By exhibiting some 20,000 consumer goods of 4,300-odd kinds, consumer goods producers in the city were able to further raise production and quality one step higher. The city launched a struggle to generalize the example set by the Kaesong Textile Mill, the 17 March Construction Office, the Kaesong City Construction Office, and the Kaesong Garment Factory and enabled them to positively seek out and utilize by-products and scrap materials in some 100 factories and enterprises in the city and further expand the production of people's consumer goods.

Holding high the light industry revolution guidelines set forth by our party, consumer goods producers of the Kaesong Textile Mill earnestly augmented and further equipped the 3 August people's consumer goods production base and expanded the number of kinds of products. And by launching a struggle to lower systematically the standard of material consumption per unit of product, they are standing in the forefront of the whole city as a model.

Consumer goods producers starting with Comrade Kim Mun-chong, the head of the daily necessities shop, and Pak Sung-pae, the workteam leader of the 17 March Construction Office, aggressively sought out and mobilized raw material sources consistent with their own circumstances and are producing and guaranteeing several dozen high quality wood products such as desks, cabinets, quilt storage chests, round tables, eating tables, and book shelves. Yu Kye- chun, Choe Kwang-sik and other people's goods producers of the Kaesong City Construction Office are vigorously carrying out work aimed at mapping out the material and technical foundation of the daily necessities shop and setting up electric saws, automatic planers, and cutting machines. By keeping them in full operation, they are producing more consumer goods and sending them to direct outlet stores, thereby contributing to raising the living standards of the people.

The struggle to produce 3 August people's consumer goods has been vigorously launched at the Kaesong Disabled Veterans' Clothing Machine Factory, the Garment Factory, the Regional Wood Cutting Station, the Machinery Factory, the Metal Products Factory, and the Rice Oil Factory as well.

In response to the remarkable growth of production of 3 August people's consumer goods in the factories and enterprises in the city, functionaries here including Comrade Yi Chong-sun, the manager of the direct sales outlet, are visiting the factories and enterprises in order to supply goods to the people on time, and by purchasing goods and keeping the shelves filled, the direct sales outlets are always bustling with large numbers of people.

* Direct Sales Outlets Growing

902C0312C Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 3 Aug 90 p 3

[Article by correspondent Yi Tok-no: "Shelves Filled With Various Commodities"]

[Text] On the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's on-the-spot guidance to the Light Industry Commodities Exhibition, we paid a visit to the Kaechon County direct sales outlet.

Just six years ago there had been a small direct sales outlet that occupied a building no more than several dozen square meters in area. Now, however, not only is there a main store of some 125 meters in length in the center of the county seat, but there are also some 19 branch outlets in various districts within the county such as Choyang and Pongchon.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Politburo and Secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK [Workers Party of Korea], pointed out as follows:

"We must vigorously carry out a service revolution, too. Only by vigorously carrying out a service revolution is it possible to provide the people with more convenient living conditions."

We liked the outside appearance of the direct sales outlet, which was built in a distinctive style, but what attracted our attention even more was the fact that stylish and good quality consumer goods literally filled the inside of the sales outlet, which stretched for much more than 100 meters. There were sections and counters for foodstuffs, plastic goods, glass and ceramics, textile fiber products, shoes, furniture....

Indeed, the direct sales outlet was chock full of various kinds of commodities.

When one considers that such wonderful people's consumer goods were being made from by-products, scrap materials, and leftovers that used to be thrown away unproductively in the old days, one feels deep in his heart the wise leadership and noble love of the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, who initiated the movement for production of 3 August people's consumer goods.

Looking back on it, over the past six years Kaechon County has achieved great innovations in the production of 3 August people's consumer goods.

From several statistics showed to us by Comrade Yi Tae-pin, the manager of the direct sales outlet, we could understand the successes achieved over the past six years by Kaechon County in the production of 3 August people's consumer goods. Taking to its heart the intent of the party, Kaechon County carried out in an all-county mass movement a struggle to produce 3 August people's consumer goods in all the factories and enterprises, rural sideline teams, and household teams in the county.

The county set up a "3 August People's Consumer Goods Samples Office" under the highest standards and through this samples office spiritedly mapped out its work in order to raise the quality and increase the number of kinds of consumer goods.

In this worthwhile struggle, last year alone the county increased the number of kinds of consumer products to nearly 1,000 kinds and raised production volume several dozen fold.

In May last year the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il even sent the thanks of the party Central Committee to the county functionaries, producers of 3 August people's consumer goods, and functionaries of direct sales outlets.

Hearing this story from the manager, Comrade Yi Tae-pin, we arrived at the textile fibers section.

There we found young girls who were delighted to be buying a new kind of reversible sweater, mothers buying chic children's clothing, middle-aged housewives buying stockings and underwear....

The faces of the customers were literally wreathed in smiles. The store clerks said that just the goods that were on display in the shop numbered around 660.

The more we saw and heard, the more we could understand that each and every consumer product brought joy and happiness to the people.

The daily-use sundries counter, where the number of kinds of items is said to be some 720, was more bustling than ever before.

Among them, popular items included lead refills for plastic pencils and cosmetics now being newly manufactured, in support of the letter sent by the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il to the participants in the National Light Industry Conference. The county says that recently, in just the several months since the National Light Industry Conference, several dozen new products have been developed and are being mass produced. A high spirit of service was displayed by shop clerks Chang Hak-nan, Kang Son-pok, Kang Yong-suk, Paek Yi-sil, and Chang Chong-ok and the direct outlet functionaries.

We were again astonished when we took a look at the 1,000-square meter storehouse. The direct outlet store functionaries here are also exchanging commodities with other provinces, cities and counties in order to accommodate the people. So, commodities that are not available or in short supply in Kaechon County are brought in from other provinces and cities and counties and goods of which Kaechon County residents have a surplus are sent to other places.

* Production Without Much Capital

902C0312D Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 3 Aug 90 p 3

[Article by correspondent Kim Kyong-chun: "It Doesn't Take Much Capital: In Pukchong County"]

[Text] Pukchong County is organizing daily necessities workshops, work teams, and household production cooperatives in factories and enterprises and street unit people's teams, and utilization and production teams in commercial sectors and producing large quantities of consumer goods necessary for the people's livelihood by aggressively utilizing by-products and scrap materials from the manufacture of basic products in factories and enterprises.

Also, the county has set up a people's consumer goods direct sales outlet in the county seat and branch shops in Sinbukchong and Sinchang districts and is not only smoothly supplying to the people the people's consumer goods produced there, but also is enhancing the role of direct outlet store functionaries. And maintaining close links with other areas, they are also carrying out commodities exchange work on a large scale and bringing in and providing the people with large quantities of necessary commodities.

This county is producing some 5,000 kinds of various consumer goods without using a lot of capital.

In the first half of this year the direct sales stores have dramatically raised their volume of people's consumer goods sales several dozen times above the average monthly performance compared with 1984.

By producing a lot of consumer goods yet using only a small amount of capital, the county is expanding the local budget and increasing the people's standard of living and also bringing great benefits to the country.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught as follows:

"In order to rapidly raise the people's standard of living, we must put great efforts into the development of light industry and bring about a great transformation in the production of people's consumer goods."

The county party committee mobilized its propaganda and agitation machinery and, using various forms and methods, is widely explaining and propagandizing the teachings of the great leader and the intent of the party concerning expanding the production of people's consumer goods. Thus, it is seeing to it that all party members and workers in the county, particularly functionaries and workers of pertinent sectors such as the factory and enterprise functionaries, forge ahead dynamically to the struggle to produce 3 August consumer goods.

In factories, enterprises, street unit people's teams, and commercial sectors, the county organized daily life necessities workshops and workteams, household production cooperatives, household work teams, and utilization and production teams according to their attributes.

Along the seashore, the county had people organize household work teams and utilization and production teams that would produce foodstuffs from fisheries products and edible marine products. And in the mountainous areas they had people set up utilization and production teams and the corresponding work teams so as to produce people's consumer goods to suit the attributes of the mountainous areas.

In particular, the county enhanced the role of direct sales outlet functionaries in the production and supplying of people's consumer goods. Thus, direct sales outlets functionaries and clerks, including the manager, Comrade Chong Pong-suk, upholding the lofty intent of the party, went out to the factories, enterprises, and street unit people's teams and launched aggressive activities so as to increase the production of people's consumer goods. And on the other hand, they are carrying out commodities exchange work and working hard to bring in necessary commodities [from other areas] and supply them to the people.

The members of the Pukchong Plastic Daily Necessities Production Cooperative are putting their heads together and making many stylish and useful people's consumer goods of 20 different types, without throwing away a single scrap of vinyl.

The Pukchong Machinery Factory is gathering each and every scrap of metal and making good-quality iron and steel daily necessities products. The Pukchong Export

Clothing Factory is being praised by the people for turning out several dozen kinds of consumer goods from odd ends of yardage

The Pukchong Ceramics Factory, the Pukchong Spinning Mill, the Pukchong Orchard Machinery Factory, the Pukchong Fruit Processing Factory and all the other factories and enterprises in the county are mobilizing and utilizing materials lying unused and producing people's consumer goods in large quantities.

South Korea

Minister Choe Sees Inevitable Change in North

SK0611[illegible]10990 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 6 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] North Korea seems to be faced with the need to change its external and internal policies as international politics around the Korean peninsula are rapidly changing, Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung said yesterday.

He said the North has already shown "symptoms of change" in its policy toward the South, the United States, Japan, China, the Soviet Union and the United Nations.

The symptoms made him speculate that the question of domestic reform and opening up of society would be brought up in the North sooner or later in one form or another, Choe said during a dinner for the participants in a seminar sponsored by the International Cultural Society of Korea at the Hilton Hotel.

He said the government's "northern policy" will emphasize the inter-Korean aspect in the future for rapprochement with the North, which has been outshadowed to an extent by its efforts for improving ties with other socialist countries.

"I am of the opinion that further development of the inter-Korean aspect of the northern diplomacy without keeping the goal of South-North rapprochement firmly in sight is neither possible nor desirable," the minister said.

For its part, he said, the southern government will promote a wide variety of exchanges and cooperation in economic, social and other fields with the North and try not to make Pyongyang feel isolated during the course of Seoul's rapprochement with the Soviet Union and China.

"I believe it is essential to the peaceful settlement of the Korean question for Pyongyang to maintain its current ties with Moscow and Beijing," Choe said, adding that Seoul is in a position of "no-objection-in-principle" toward Pyongyang's attempts to improve relations with the United States and Japan.

The minister also stressed the importance of continued and stabilized development of politics, economy and society in general in the South for further progress in the government's northern policy, especially in relations with the North.

Choe Hints UN Policy May Become More Flexible

SK0511125190 Seoul YONHAP in English 1238 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 5 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung on Monday hinted that his government may employ flexible attitudes toward North Korea with regard to the U.N. membership issue. Choe stressed the need to keep direct South-North dialogue, by saying, "If the international aspect of Korea's internal problem is emphasized to an excessive degree and, for that reason, the third parties' role just grows bigger at the expense of a sincere discussion between the South and North Korean authorities, it would have an unproductive impact on Koreans' effort to solve the unification issue self-reliantly."

Choe made the remarks at an international academic seminar sponsored by the international cultural society of Korea. Choe earlier openly talked of a plan to push for South Korea's unilateral admission into the United Nations within this year should North Korea remains opposing Seoul's proposal for simultaneous entries by the South and North to the world body. [as received]

The U.N. membership issue has been one of the thorny pending issues hindering significant progress of the inter-Korean political talks.

Delivering his speech on "northern policy and Korea's unification," the top foreign policy-maker said that the South Korean Government would expand multilateral exchanges and cooperation with North Korea in an effort to "bail out North Korea from isolation." He added the South would support the North's efforts to improve relations with the United States and Japan.

Minister Choe said that Korea's northern policy—President No Tae-u's foreign policy initiative at rapproachement with communist nations—should from now on be pursued with its emphasis being placed on concerns for the inter-Korean reconciliation of which progress "has not been satisfactory." "North Korea is showing signs of change in its policies on the Soviet Union and China as well as the United Nations, South Korea, America and Japan," Choe said, "and there is an observation that calls for internal reforms and openness will be raised in any form in North Korea in the not distant future." He also stressed that South Korea should take actions necessary "to make sure that North Korea does not feel isolated any more" with a view to advancing unification.

Council Proposes North's 'Democratization'

SK0511065690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0624 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 5 (OANA-YONHAP)—A presidential advisory group proposed on Monday that the basis of unification between South and North Korea be the aim to achieve a "democratic society." After being briefed by government officials on inter-Korean relations, including the prime ministerial talks, the Advisory

Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification adopted the proposal in a session at Sejong Cultural Center. Local branches of the council also held sessions.

The council recommended that South Korea demand that North Korea undertake democratization and openness, urged positive participation in the government's "new order" and "new life" movements and suggested preparing for inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation.

The session began with a speech by President No Tae-u and proceeded with a report by Director General Hyon Kyong-tae and reports on inter-Korean contacts by Unification Minister Hong Song- chol and Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung.

Hong said it was a good sign that North Korea had joined the "unification friendly soccer match" and invited South Korean traditional musicians to play in a "pan-national orchestra." "But we should further strengthen supra-partisan national security condition as the confrontations between the South and the North currently continue," he said.

Japanese Paper Says No Sending Envoys to North

SK0611094490 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 6 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] A recent issue of the "KOREA REPORT," a biweekly published in Tokyo, has reported that President No Tae-u will dispatch three secret emissaries to Pyongyang in early November to realize the early holding of North-South summit talks with North Korean President Kim Il-song.

According to the report, the group of three emissaries who were assigned an unofficial contact—a separate channel from premiers' talks—will be led by Mr H. and composed of by Mr M. and Mr S., former vice chairman of the Federation of Korean Industries. This group will go to Pyongyang via Beijing.

The "KOREA REPORT" has added: During the Asian Games in Beijing, North Korea inquired of Mr M. of whether the South had any intention of an unofficial contact. Informed of this inquiry, Mr H. met President No Tae-u and delivered North Korea's intention to him. Through this course, the matter of dispatching secret emissaries was decided.

North Agrees To Hold Red Cross Talks 9 Nov

SK0611084390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0837 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 6 (YONHAP)—North Korea has agreed to hold the inter-Korean Red Cross talks on Friday [9 November] at the truce village of Panmunjom.

Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the North Korean Red Cross, said in a telephone message to his South Korean counterpart Tuesday that he was accepting Kim Sang-hyop's proposal for the eighth working-level talks. Yi offered on Oct. 16 to meet on Nov. 15, and Kim asked on Monday to reschedule the talks on Friday [Seoul Domestic Service in Korean on 5 November broadcasts a related report that the South requested the meeting on 8 November].

The inter-Korean Red Cross talks, which deal with such humanitarian issues as reunion of separated families, broke off in December 1989 due to disagreement over North Korea's plan to perform a revolutionary opera, "Flower Girl," in Seoul during an exchange of the separated families.

Seoul Concerned Over Solomon's Remarks on North

SK0411014890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] The Korean government has expressed to Washington its concerns over the possible negative impact of the recent statement by Richard Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of state, that North Korea's acceptance of international nuclear safeguards would help improve relations with Washington, a Foreign Ministry source said yesterday.

He said the government has let the Korean Embassy in Washington confirm whether Solomon had made the remarks at a seminar at a San Diego university as was reported by newspapers.

The embassy also conveyed to Washington the Korean government position that the remarks, if true, would adversely affect inter-Korean relations.

The U.S. State Department and Assistant Secretary Solomon, in response, told Korean officials that the other preconditions Washington had set earlier for improving relations with North Korea are still effective, the source said.

Solomon's remarks at the San Diego seminar were only to stress again the importance of Pyongyang's acceptance of the nuclear safeguards agreement, he said.

'Inordinate' U.S. Economic Demands Criticized

SK0611003590 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Nov 90 p 8

[From the "News in Review" column by Assistant Economic Desk reporter Pak Chang-sok]

[Text] Talk of a recession has echoed across the world, although it has yet to make its presence known on economic charts. Despite officials' reluctance to use the "R" word, which technically is two consecutive three-month periods of an economic contraction, many economists have already told of the arrival of a slump. The Aug. 2 Iraqi takeover of Kuwait is being viewed as the nail in the coffin for the downturn. In the United States the world's largest spender, economists say that the slump has actually begun before the outbreak of the Gulf crisis. A similar sense of panic is also palpable in the United Kingdom, Australia, and other countries.

As gloom shrouds the glob, a lot of countries over the world have already gotten down to business of mapping out austerity programs to combat sagging economy. Korea is not immune to the world trend of an economic turnaround. Last week, Korea's authoritative think tank painted a gloomy picture over next year's national economy, characterized by high inflation and low growth. It is the first time in 10 years since the second oil shock that the Korea Development Institute (KDI) has diagnosed that the nation's economy would slide into an abyss of stagflation, a combination of high inflation and slow growth.

At the apex of mounting concern over the future of a fragile economy, the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Seoul has come up with their toughest-ever demands for a wider opening of Korean markets to foreign imports. In a two-day closed session between Korean officials and American businessmen on bilateral trade relations, the U.S. side was learned to have urged the Korean government to halt its campaign against "extravagant consumerism." A it pointed out, it is true that the Seoul government has been calling on the people to refrain from buying "luxury goods" in the face of protracted lagging exports and a subsequent economic slowdown. The U.S. went further to demand that the American businesses be allowed to set up retail agencies in Seoul for automobiles and electronic products.

Whenever austerity campaigns were launched here, the U.S. has called for their suspension. It seems to be difficult for Koreans to understand these American demands. The ongoing anti-consumption campaign is distinct from anti-import movements the U.S. side has claimed. The consumption-curbing problem is a domestic matter. It is not a matter subject to bilateral deals. As a matter of fact, Koreans' buying sprees seem to be going too far at home and abroad. The excessive buying by Korean travelers abroad has been the target of public grievances of late. It is not just for spending foreign currencies. True, it seems to have stemmed from public worry over the slackness in the belt-tightening attitude and laxity of hard-working labor spirit—both which have been the mainstay of Korea's rapid economic growth.

Whether or not to spend or import more does not matter. The austerity campaign is a matter of spiritual rearmament for Koreans, rather than a simple economic problem. In this view, the U.S. needs to gain a correct understanding of the socio-economic situation of Korea. No doubt, Korea is now in the midst of confusion and fragility in all sectors of its structure in the face of the transition to a mature democracy. Koreans, once called "word worms," are now infected with profligate consumption and decadence, fueled by rampant spending. The ratio of the people's savings to the Gross National Product (GNP) has markedly declined since 1988, making it more difficult for enterprises to get industrial funds from the local financial market.

More important is that Korea is not yet an advanced country, with its per capita GNP standing below 5,000 U.S. dollars.

Economists see the breakthrough of $5,000 in per capita income as a crucial watershed determining the course of economic development. Unless the lid is put on the current social wind of overconsumption and decadence, Korea could glide back to the permanent economic minors, as seen in some Latin American nations. Korea may be faced with untold market-opening pressure after the settlement of Uruguay Round for free trade, integration of the European Community (EC) markets and the formation of regional economic blocs.

Taking into consideration the rapidly-changing world circumstances, the excessive demands for market opening could deal a devastating blow to such economically-fragile countries as Korea. It could rather undermine the market-opening capability of the developing states. In particular, the inordinate demands by the U.S. may have an adverse effect upon bilateral trade.

A point to be noted is that the trade policies of each country are diverse in a accordance with the conditions of industrial development, balance of international payments, and socio-political circumstances as well. A 6.9 percent growth in GNP, a 2.8 billion deficit in payments balance, and a 9.7 percent inflation rate are macroeconomic projections by KDI for next year.

By most accounts, the enchanted moment seems to be gone and high anxiety rules the country. A far-reaching downturn, triggered by the specter of war and rapacious oil prices haunts consumers and businessmen everywhere. As far as a trade problem with Korea is concerned, the wisdom of waiting to get a bigger share of the benefits is in America's best interests.

Financial Market 'Disputes' With U.S. Viewed

SK0611005590 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Nov 90 p 1

[First in a series of articles on Korea-U.S. "disputes" on the opening of the domestic financial market; by staff reporter Yi Chang-sop]

[Text] Korea and the United States are likely to give little ground in their positions on the liberalization of Korea's financial markets in their second financial policy talks due for Friday and Saturday in Seoul.

U.S. Treasury officials are likely to contend that national (equal) treatment has been refused to a considerable degree for American financial institutions in Korea. There has been little improvement observed since the first meeting in February, they claimed.

But Korean officials argue that there has been "almost no discriminatory treatment" against foreign banks. On the contrary, domestic banks complain about too much preferential treatment for foreign banks, they say.

High on the agenda for the bilateral meeting is the deregulation of foreign exchange and money markets as well as interest rate controls. Expansion of market access for American financial institutions in Korea will also be one of the major items for the Seoul meeting, government officials and American bankers said.

The U.S. demand is not limited to ending "discrimination" against American financial institutions in Korea. Washington hopes Korea will restructure its financial markets, government officials say.

For example, Washington wants Korea to deregulate its existing interest rates, capital controls, and foreign exchange regulations and to abolish policy loans, government officials and central bankers said.

Washington contends that the liberalization of Korea's financial market is "in the interests of Korea's economy for swift restructuring and for sharpening the international competitive edge of Korean products abroad."

But Korean government officials maintain that the country is pursuing financial market liberalization according to its own schedule and "a to hasty opening will have wider and uncontrollable implications for the domestic economy."

They said the U.S. appears to be "challenging the sovereignty of Korea's own financial policies by meddling in its internal affairs." Washington must limit itself to demanding an end to what American financial institutions claim to be discrimination. It is nonsense for the U.S. to seek to affect the overall pace of financial deregulation and other important policy matters, they complained.

Washington insists that serious discrimination against U.S. and other foreign banks continues. Rather than eliminating the discrimination, Korea has set policies to reduce the privileges it offered in the past, they claimed.

Seoul said that there remains some preferential treatment in setting the ceiling for credit to a single customer, applying the requirements for loans to small- and medium-sized enterprises, and granting exemptions from liquidity control and policy-guided loans.

Korean officials said that profits of foreign banks are much higher than those of domestic banks. At the end of last year, the profit-to-total assets ratio of foreign banks was three times that of domestic banks.

The U.S. pressure on Korea's financial market opening appears to be intensifying as most American banks are undergoing restructuring at homes. As prospects for the Uruguay Round talks are cloudy and U.S. elections are drawing nearer, Washington is intensifying its pressure on Korea, analysts said.

The U.S. Treasury Department is scheduled to submit to the Congress the "national treatment status of American banks abroad" by Dec. 1. Analysts said the United States' keen interest reflects the importance Washington attaches to Korea's financial market, often dubbed a "gold mine" for global financial institutions.

Government officials question why Washington is pressuring Korea into opening its financial market, while not exerting its influence on other markets, including Thailand, Australia, Taiwan, France, Germany and Argentina.

The second meeting was originally to be held in Washington but the venue was changed to Seoul obviously because of passive attitudes on the Seoul side. The Seoul meeting reflects the growing U.S. interest in the Korean financial markets, analysts said. In the February meeting, the U.S. side alleged that Korea had reconfirmed its plan to open its capital market by 1992. According to American sources, Korea expressed its intention to review the additional opening of the banking industry. It also agreed to improve the conditions for fund raising by foreign banks.

But they complained that since the meeting, Korea has taken only slow and limited action in its execution of the agreements. They contend that most of the regulations are discriminatory, the short-term call money market situation has not improved and some new restrictions have appeared, they said.

U.S. sources added that the U.S. Treasury Department will continue to demand the abolition of discrimination and the liberalization of the financial market.

Korea is likely to announce a detailed guideline on capital market opening so that foreign securities firms can conduct business in Korea from next year by opening branches or setting up joint ventures.

Seoul is likely to commit itself to full opening of the trust market to foreign competition. Seoul may ease the restrictions on foreign banks' establishment of additional branches and acquisition of real estate and eliminate the preferential treatment and thereby create a "fair and equal business atmosphere," according to sources.

Seoul is also expected to help the U.S. Treasury Department clear away "misunderstanding of Korea's unique banking and financial market culture," they noted.

Finance Ministry 'Greatly Upset' by U.S. Moves

SK0611035690 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 5 Nov 90 p 7

[From the "Economic Lobby" column]

[Text] The U.S. side sent working officials to Seoul last week to contact officials of foreign banks operating in Korea, even before the ROK-U.S. financial policy meeting scheduled for 9-10 November in Seoul. Officials of the ROK Ministry of Finance, greatly upset by this, appear to be alert at the news.

The U.S. working officials are reported to be gathering data mainly on the Korean Government's discriminatory measures against foreign banks and to find whether the Korean Government will keep its word on opening up the financial market to foreign capital. The ROK Ministry of Finance officials described the activities of U.S. working officials, who are gathering data after coming to Korea in a manner that resembled an infiltration more than a visit, as being unprecedented.

Financial officials and others concerned expect that, unlike in the past, the U.S. side this time will launch an intense offensive against Korea during the ROK-U.S. financial policy meeting in Seoul, calling upon it to open its financial market.

Gorbachev, Businessman Discuss Economic Ties

SK0611022290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0201 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 6 (YONHAP)—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev met with South Korean businessman Chong Chu-yong in his Kremlin office Monday to discuss ways to expand economic cooperation between the two countries, the state-run Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) reported on Tuesday.

Chong, founder of the Hyundai Group and president of the Korea-Soviet Economic Association, discussed a wide range of issues related to the development of economic relations between the Soviet Union and Korea with Gorbachev, KBS said.

Gorbachev told Chong he would send a letter to President No Tae-u through Vadim Mevedev, a member of the Soviet Presidential Council who is to visit Seoul Nov. 16, KBS reported. The letter will be mainly about economic cooperation between the two nations, KBS quoted Chong as saying.

Chong is the first Korean businessman to meet the Soviet president, who previously had welcomed only religious and political leaders to the Kremlin. In his 40-minute meeting with Chong, Gorbachev requested that Korean entrepreneurs pay special attention to the Soviet Union, which is short of consumer goods, and asked Chong to pass this message on to No.

Touching on the political situation in the Far East, Gorbachev said he was sure the normalization of South Korea-Soviet relations would push North Korea in a good direction, KBS said.

Hyundai signed a barter deal on Saturday with the Soviet Union for clothes, footwear, household electrical appliances, car tyres and batteries. In return, Hyundai will get crude oil and other raw materials, KBS reported. Chong, accompanied by Yi Myong-pak, Hyundai Construction and Engineering Co., told Gorbachev that Hyundai had a keen interest in the development of natural resources in Siberia, KBS said.

Premier Kang's Enthronement Attendance Protested

OW0511143490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1302 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 5 KYODO—Two groups of bereaved families of South Korean war victims Monday protested against dispatching Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun to Japan to attend Emperor Akihito's enthronement ceremony. They charged that Kang's presence at the ceremony in Tokyo next week is "absolutely unacceptable" to the national sentiment of the South Korean people.

Kang's dispatch to Japan "is an act of recognition and celebration of the resurgence of Japanese militarism and nothing else," they said in a statement issued in protest at the Seoul government's decision to send Kang as the South Korean envoy to the ceremony. The statement said Japan is trying to establish a military presence in the Middle East by loosening the interpretation of its Constitution. Japan is currently debating whether to allow its Self-Defense Forces to go overseas in cooperation of the international peacekeeping efforts.

In addition, they said, Japan is implicitly revealing its intention to revive militarism by its groundless claims to ownership of the Senkaku Islands —Diaoyutai in Chinese—in the East China Sea. Japanese patrol ships last month turned away Taiwanese fishing boats whose crew members tried to land on the islands, claimed by Japan, China, and Taiwan. They drew similarities with the territorial disputes between Japan and South Korea over the Takeshima Islands—known as Tok-To in Korean—in the Japan Sea.

Chinese Trade Promotion Team Arrives

SK0411020290 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Nov 90 p 6

[Text] A 15-man Chinese delegation arrived here Thursday to promote sales of Chinese commodities in Korea and Korean investments in China, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. said.

The delegation, headed by Wang Shiching, vice president of Tinjin Commodities Association, is composed of businessmen in Tianjin province.

Argentina To Sign Investment Protection Accord

SK0311033990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0237 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, Nov. 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Argentina will sign an investment protection agreement next year to promote mutual economic cooperation and exchange, Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo said Friday.

Cavallo said in a meeting with foreign correspondents that the investment guarantee pact will be concluded before Argentine President Carlos Menem visits Seoul next year, but declined to set the date of Menem's trip.

Officials from the two countries have held talks in New York to discuss signing the investment protection accord, Cavallo said.

The Foreign Minister also said Argentina hopes economic cooperation will be extended between Seoul and

Buenos Aires and that Menem's official visit to Seoul will be a turning point for the promotion of economic exchanges.

Romanian Reformer Requests Korean Aid

SK0411014290 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] A Bucharest reformist has called on Korean officials, business leaders and researchers to visit Romania to give a "diagnosis" on its economy, which is so distorted to have a "plant with the capacity of producing hundreds of huge lathes a year, while the worldwide demand for the lathes of that size a year is only around 20."

"That's what Nicolae Ceausescu did to the country. He loved big things only to demonstrate his pride and the industry was managed by him in that way," said Adrian Severin, a Romanian deputy prime minister, yesterday. But the 36-year-old reformist did not seem to disagree with Ceausescu in finding a resemblance between Korea and Romania.

"We are interested in learning the experience of economic development from Korea for the great similarity between the two countries geographically and historically," said the official.

He said Romania wants to invite Korean investment and participation in the fields of telecommunications and electronics in particular but welcomes involvement in all possible fields. "Practically, everything is open except very few strategical fields," said Severin, who is visiting Seoul Oct. 31-Nov, 4 leading a delegation. He is the highest-ranking Romanian official to visit Seoul since Korea and Romania established diplomatic relations in March this year.

While meeting Korean officials, businessmen, bankers and researchers in Seoul, he said he found very encouraging signs for bilateral relations between the two countries.

When he returns home, he will let Romanian officials keep in touch with Koreans through diplomatic channels to reach concrete agreements on projects of economic cooperation.

According to Severin, one of the biggest problems Romania is facing in the course of economic reforms is people's mentality. Romanian people, after a 50-year totalitarian rule, lack the mentality required under a market economy, he said. The centralized management of industry under Ceausescu which artificially set the prices and the production of goods also has made it difficult to calculate the profitability of a certain industry or a factory, he said. There is also a big gap between the actual industrial capacity and the material resources it produces and between the capacity and the real market demand.

The big plant which can produce hundreds of huge lathes, measuring 19 meters high, is an extreme example showing the bad legacies the reformists inherited from the dictators, said Severin.

The official rejected the accusation that Romania is not as democratic as other East European countries, saying "Romania is he only country in Eastern Europe without a Communist party." "It is a pity that the United States, which was so friendly to Ceausescu, is so cautious and reluctant to help our economic reforms," he said, adding that both Romanians and American must have distorted images of each other. "The United States should not measure us with the same rulers it uses for measuring Americans," the lawyer-turned administrator argued.

Firm To Build Iranian Chemical Plant

SK0311071490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0658 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 3 (YONHAP)—Daelim Industrial Co. of South Korea has won a 150 million-U.S.-dollar contract to build a petro-chemical plant in Bandar-e Khomeyni in Iran, sources said Saturday. The deal, concluded on Oct. 29, brings contracts Daelim has signed with Iran this year to 450 million dollars, they said. Daelim will start construction of the ethylene plant, to have a production capacity of 300,000 tons a year, at the beginning of next year.

The Japanese group Mitsui began building the petrochemical complex in Bandar-e Khomeyni under joint investment with a state-run chemical company in 1976, but the Iran-Iraq war and Islamic revolution stopped the work.

Daelim won a 147 million-dollar contract to build a thermal power plant last year-end and has obtained a few other big deals this year. The deals include a 257 million-dollar contract to construct the no. 2 natural gas refinery in Kangan and a 37 million-dollar contract for a linear alkyl benzine factory.

The sources said Daelim could earn such big projects as it had won the confidence of the Iranian Government by continuing to work there undaunted by the Iran-Iraq war.

Record Amount of East European Tourists To Visit

SK0311070490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0655 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 3 (YONHAP)—A record 1,000 East European tourists will visit South Korea between late October and Dec. 6, the Transportation Ministry said Saturday. The ministry and Korea National Tourism Corp. will ask the Customs Office and Immigration Bureau to simplify clearance for the visitors and present them with souvenirs.

Korea has set up diplomatic relations with most east-bloc nations since February 1989. Korea Express Travel Service Co., Seoul Travel Service Co. and the Transit

Travel Co., a joint venture between the Soviet Union and Poland, are arranging the visits.

Trade With Communist Nations Continues To Rise

SK0311032990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0122 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 3 (YONHAP)—South Korean trade with communist-bloc nations rose 23.7 percent to 3.77 billion U.S. dollars in the first nine months from 3.05 billion dollars in the same period last year, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Saturday.

This represents 3.9 percent of total trade, up 0.5 percentage points from 1989. In 1984, the figure was 0.1 percent.

Korea posted a trade deficit of 210 million dollars on imports of 1.99 billion dollars and exports of 1.78 billion dollars with those countries, the Ministry said.

Trade grew rapidly following the 1988 Seoul Olympics under the government's northern policy of establishing diplomatic ties and expanding economic cooperation with communist nations, a Ministry official said.

China, with which Seoul has no diplomatic ties, took the lead with 2.59 billion dollars in two-way trade, followed by the Soviet Union, which normalized relations in September, with 316 million dollars.

Trade with Eastern European countries was 517 million dollars, up 101.2 percentage points from a year earlier.

Korea's main exports are TV sets and parts, refrigerators, textiles, videotape recorders, footwear and soap. Major imports are cement, crude oil, marine products and raw cotton, according to the Ministry.

Korean, Hungarian Business Leaders Meet

SK0311011590 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 3 Nov 90 p 6

[Text] Business leaders from Korea and Hungary yesterday reaffirmed the need for promoting cooperation in trade, joint ventures and technology transfer between the two countries in a Seoul meeting.

The meeting, attended by over 60 representatives of the Korean and Hungarian business communities, is the second such meeting, following one held in November last year.

Noting the fast expansion of trade between Seoul and Budapest, the participants agreed that there is still a "great potential for further trade increase," a statement issued at the end of the meeting said.

"Both sides have to exert their best efforts to decrease the high tariffs valid today, which are nowadays one of the greatest obstacles in the further expansion of the bilateral trade," it said.

They also agreed to explore the possibilities of joint ventures in such areas as electronics, vehicle components, machinery, tourism, pharmaceuticals, agricultural processing and construction.

The Korean delegation was led by Kang Chin-ku, chairman of the Korea-Hungary Business Committee. His Hungarian counterpart was Lajos Komar.

Seoul Names Five New Consuls General

SK0511053290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0525 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 5 (YONHAP)—The government Monday named Hyon Hui-kang, chief of West Europe, Africa and the Middle East at the Foreign Affairs and National Security Institute (FANSI), consul general in Berlin, and Yi Tu-pok, director of Middle East and African affairs, consul general in Vancouver, British Columbia, to replace Pak Tong-kyu and Chong Ki-ok, respectively.

Kim Tong-ho, ambassador at large, was named consul general in Miami, Florida, and Pak Mun-kyu, FANSI's China researcher, consul general in Shimonoseki, Japan, to replace An Hyon-won and Kim U-sang.

The consuls general will return to Seoul to work in the ministry.

Ambassador-at-Large Yi Hae-sun was nominated to head the ministry's Middle East African Affairs bureau and Yi Chong-mu, minister in the embassy in Germany, to direct the International Economic Affairs Bureau.

Choe Tae-hwa, director of international economic affairs, has been chosen to head the consulate general in Houston, Texas.

Greek Premier To Visit in Mid-November

SK0311033590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0254 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 3 (YONHAP)—Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis will visit South Korea Nov. 14-15 at the invitation of President No Tae-u, No's spokesman said Saturday.

While here, Mitsotakis will have a summit meeting with the president and meet with Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun and other high-ranking government officials to discuss matters of mutual concern, the spokesman said.

The visit will be first ever by a Greek prime minister since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries in 1961.

Government Plans New Science-Industry Complex

SK0311034690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0144 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 3 (YONHAP)—The government will begin work on a 19.3-square-kilometer frontier science-industry complex in Kwangju, South Cholla Province, in October 1991, the Construction Ministry said Friday.

According to a report submitted to a meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Yi Sung-yun, the ministry intends to spend 1.4 trillion won (1.2 billion U.S. dollars) to construct the complex in Kwangju, 255 kilometers South of Seoul.

A 7.8-square-kilometer estate with education-research structures, plants and residences will be completed by 1995 at a cost of 661.1 billion won (931 million dollars) for eight state and 20 private research institutes, it said.

This phase includes construction of No. 2 Science-Industry University, which will have 20 departments, 3,000 students and 400 professors, and 50 sophisticated factories in the new material, fine chemical and space industries.

The complex will have housing for 30,000 people.

The second phase will be completed by 2001, when the complex will produce 1.109 trillion won (1.15 billion dollars) of goods annually, the report said.

The ministry will make the project public next week, and the Korea Land Development Corp., an organization under its control, will be in charge of construction, it added.

Opposition Grows to Island Nuclear Waste Dumps

SK0311060790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0558 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 3 (YONHAP)—The government has tentatively decided that an island off South Chungchong Province is the site to store radioactive waste from the nation's atomic power plants, but the citizens of Taejon and Chungchong Province say they do not want nuclear waste dumped on their doorsteps.

They warn that a part of Anmyon Island, a summer resort famed for a stunning 24-kilometer beach, will be transformed into an "island of death" if the government is allowed to dispose of nuclear waste on the island, destroying not only the ecology system but also the residents.

Islanders accuse the government of trying to wriggle out of its promise to develop Anmyon as a beachhead to promote exchanges with China and the advent of the "age of the west coast" touted by President No Tae-u during his election campaign.

Strong resistance has already scuttled plans to build a waste dump on the east and south coasts, and now a bid to set aside 3.3 million to 6.6 million square meters of Anmyon have run into the same problem.

The nuclear commission, an irregular gathering of cabinet ministers led by the deputy prime minister, will meet in mid-November to consider how to meet the government's goal of beginning construction in the latter half of next year.

Anmyon Island has been nominated as a national sea park and is listed in the government's development plan of national resort and tourism sites by 1996.

The total radioactive waste of the nation's nine reactors sites in 28,000 drums temporarily warehoused at each plant, but by 1993 or 1994 the makeshift warehouses are expected to hit capacity.

* Industries To Develop Advanced Semiconductors

902C0320A Seoul CHUGAN MAEKYONG in Korean 23 Aug 90 pp 69-71

[Article by reporter Yi Ki-tong: "How Far the Korean Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology Has Come—Samsung-Developed 16M DRAM [Dynamic Random Access Memory] and the Semiconductor Industry's Present Status"]

[Text] The 16M DRAM semiconductor era has come to Korea, too.

Dr. Chin Tae-che and his team at the Samsung Electronics Company's Consolidated Research Institute recently produced a 16M DRAM test product developed by the 0.5 micron-level ultra-minute processing technology, pushing Korea up to the No. 3 semiconductor power in the world—after the United States and Japan.

The success has put Samsung a step closer to an independent 64M DRAM development, which is called "the Devil's wall" of the semiconductor industry.

In June this year, Japan's Hitachi loudly announced that it had succeeded in the development of 64M DRAM for the first time in the world. It is known, however, that Hitachi's feat, after all, is confined to a laboratory success and, therefore, is an unfinished job. The 64M DRAM development is literally an unfinished but greatly promising work and it will be some time before 16M DRAM is commercialized.

Under these circumstances, Samsung's announcement of its 16M DRAM development signifies that Korea can give Japan a hot pursuit in the development of 64M DRAM, too, and can compete with the advanced industrialized nations in the world semiconductor markets. It gives us assurances that we, on our own, can vault over the solid U.S. and Japanese barricades of technology and can even dash ahead of them.

Samsung, however, even after announcing its 16M DRAM development, a great monumental accomplishment, keeps calm as if it were no big deal.

A Samsung source said, "The 16M DRAM is not the only thing we wish to publicize widely to the world. We have more sensational news for future release and that is why we are trying to restrain our present excitement." He thus generated speculations that perhaps an announcement of a new world record—i.e., a successful 64M DRAM development to surprise the world—might be imminent.

"Countdown Began on 64M DRAM Development"

Whether it is really a "sensational" 64M DRAM development news that Samsung is holding back remains to be seen. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that it will be about something bigger than 16M DRAM.

Samsung maintains an unusual tenacity in the semiconductor research and this fact alone is sufficient to give people such hopes and expectations.

Samsung Electronics completed an ultra large-scale integration (ULSI) research institute in its Kihung semiconductor plant in November last year.

It was a facility exclusively for development of 64M DRAM or even larger- scale ULSI.

The Kihung institute's advanced facilities were used in the 16M DRAM development, also.

The government has been actively supporting the advanced semiconductor program, with an outlay amounting to as much as 75 billion won, after designating it as an international task. The government's advanced semiconductor development program calls for an investment of 190 billion won in research for the period through 1993, and for completion of the 16M DRAM development by March 1991 as the first-phase goal.

It was a big surprise to government authorities that Samsung moved up the 16M DRAM timetable by as much as six months. The firm has steadily been accelerating its drive for advanced semiconductor development.

Samsung Electronics succeeded in the 1M DRAM development in 1986, then 4M DRAM in 1988. The feat reduced the technology gap with the advanced countries to less than two years. Its 16M DRAM development has pushed the firm up to one of the world's top semiconductor makers and virtually onto the same level with the United States and Japan.

Although Hitachi says it has developed 64M DRAM, they will take a long time before putting it to commercial use. Globally, only a handful of firms have so far succeeded in the 16M DRAM development, including—besides Samsung Electronics—Japan's Hitachi, Toshiba, NTT (Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp.) and Matsushita Electric Industries, and IBM of the United States. Although it is undoubtedly a fact that these Japanese firms succeeded in the 16M DRAM development, the success is a limited one involving only a laboratory-level test product. Therefore, it can be said that they remain virtually on the same level as Samsung Electronics.

Although IBM is also said to have developed 16M DRAM, what it has developed is not a quality product working fully and ready for commercialization like Samsung's. The point is that qualitatively, it is a grade below the Samsung product.

In other words, in the semiconductor technology, we have caught up with the United States and reached the world's top level and are virtually on an equal footing with Japan.

Samsung reportedly offered its 16M DRAM samples to major U.S. computer firms and they have endorsed the product.

In this connection, the U.S. journal specializing in electronics, EBN, recently wrote that "Samsung is distributing samples of its 16M DRAM test product to traders in the United States."

Quality Rating Higher Than IBM Product

The 16M DRAM developed by Samsung has received higher ratings than similar products developed earlier by several advanced firms, for the reason that it is, in the engineering phase, a finished product and is fully working. This has shocked semiconductor businesses around the world. Since it is a product ready for commercialization, it may very well have served notice to the world that Korea is coming to beat out the United States and Japan and dominate the semiconductor markets in the future.

Samsung Electronics has decided to focus on enhancing the performance and dependability of the newly developed test product through March 1991, and to put it on a mass production line toward the end of 1991. It is thus ambitiously planning to embark on 16M DRAM production on a commercial basis toward the end of next year.

Fortunately, according to prevailing observations, the global semiconductor market is picking up and this means that the timing is also favorable for Samsung.

The dark clouds of slump hanging over the world semiconductor markets since early last year began clearing up slowly from the second quarter of this year and it is anticipated that a brisk market will continue at least through 1993.

Although a growth as high as the 47.5 percent recorded in 1984, the year of a boom, or the 33.0 percent of 1988 is unlikely, a slow growth of about 25 percent will continue for the next two or three years, according to forecasts.

The world semiconductor market, inspired by the trend, is likely to grow by 20-25 percent annually to a $56 billion scale this year, to $65.5 billion in 1991, to $80 billion in 1992, and to a $101 billion size in 1993. The main factor responsible for this market recovery is the rapidly increasing demand for 1M DRAM and other memory chips and microprocessors. Especially, in the case of the 803869D chips, a 32-bit microprocessor, supply has been unable catch up with the rush of orders. In regional terms, particularly conspicuous are the increases in the European demand for PC's.

Equally noteworthy is the fact that since the beginning of the 1990's, the mainstay memory semiconductor has shifted one notch higher from 1M DRAM to 4M DRAM.

In other words, the world semiconductor market not only took on a pattern of quantitative expansion but is featuring an increasingly visible search for qualitative upgrading as well. The trend is noteworthy. In that context, too, there is no doubt that the 16M DRAM development by Samsung after all proved to be a timely response to the global trend. To be more precise, it has played a pioneering role in the world market; the significance of the 16M DRAM development is great indeed in that it was such a proud demonstration.

As for 4M DRAM, emerging as a leading item beginning this year, prospects are that a full-scale market will be formed toward the end of this year, with an anticipated growth to $2.5 billion in 1991, and to $6.2 billion in 1992.

Considering this market trend, Samsung Electronics recently expanded its monthly 4M DRAM production from 100,000 pieces to 500,000.

It is also producing 7 million pieces of 1 DRAM monthly, which puts Samsung in the second or third place in the global ranking. Samsung's 4M DRAM production is also of an enormous scale, ranking third or fourth in the world.

In view of all this, Samsung's 16M DRAM development itself was by no means a big surprise. After all, the firm had firmly established itself in the world markets as one of the leading semiconductor makers on a global scale, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Samsung Electronics plans to further expand its monthly 4M DRAM production, currently the mainstay product, to more than 1 million pieces by stages. The current price of Samsung's 4M DRAM for export is $35-$40 per unit.

The combined Samsung sales of 1M DRAM and 4M DRAM semiconductors last year amounted to 900 billion won. This year's goal is 1 trillion won. Thus, domestically, Samsung holds the unquestioned lead in the semiconductor production. Hyundai Electronics Ind., which only recently began its 1M DRAM production in earnest, sold only 200 billion-worth semiconductors (256K DRAM) last year. In the case of Gold Star Electrons, the No. 3 semiconductor maker in the country after Hyundai, it just produced 1M DRAM sample pieces belatedly and is no match for Samsung.

Added Value High, Likely To Become "Gold Mine"

Since the development of advanced semiconductors is also an important state program, it is seemingly more important to promote balanced developments between Samsung and other firms rather than to leave Samsung to dominate the industry all by itself. To that end, Hyundai and Gold Star should redouble their efforts.

Korea has now emerged as a rival to Hitachi, Toshiba, NTT, and Matsushita—the so-called Japan's Four Semiconductor Neighbors—in the development of 16M DRAM as it did with 4M DRAM. To keep competing with them, Hyundai and Gold Star should continue their development.

According to Hyundai Electronics Ind. officials, they plan to increase the monthly 1M DRAM production from 2 million pieces at present to more than 4 million and to start its 4M DRAM production from the beginning of next year. Gold Star Electrons also plans to embark on full-scale 1M DRAM production toward the end of this year, producing 3 million to 4 million pieces monthly.

If these trends continue, it is certain that Korea's share in the world semiconductor market will grow even larger. Currently, the share is approximately 15 percent and only next to Japan. While the competition is over 1M DRAM at present, Korea is heading for competition with Japan in 4M DRAM and 16M DRAM in the future. The passage of time will make a higher-level semiconductor technology war more inevitable.

Investigative groups specializing in world semiconductor businesses note that the full-scale 16M DRAM marketing will begin globally in about 1992; according to their analyses, the size of market will be $220 million in 1992, growing progressively to $1.95 billion in 1993, and to $5.08 billion in 1994.

Meanwhile, the price of the 16M DRAM commercial product to be available in about 1991 is estimated at $300 or so. This means that it will be a high added-value item priced as high as seven to eight times the current price of 4M DRAM. Therefore, the announced 16M DRAM development was a timely hit by Samsung and, moreover, it is thought to be a certainty that it will be a "gold mine" for Samsung.

The 16M DRAM that has been successfully developed by Samsung is an integration of 36 million pieces of transistors and capacity in a chip of the size of a thumb nail, containing a memory of information equivalent to 128 newspaper pages. Therefore, it is a key part indispensable to enhancing performances of all types of next-generation electronic appliances on which memory chips are used, including the high definition HDTV's, work stations, the high-performance and large-capacity PC's, and supercomputers.

Burma

UN Expert Meets Foreign Affairs Official

BK0511142390 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Professor Sadako Ogata, an independent expert on human rights from the United Nations Human Rights Commission, in the company of Mr. (Jacob Muller), a senior official from the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, visited the Foreign Ministry annex at 0930 today and had talks with U Ohn Gyaw, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department. Also present at the talks were U Ba Thwin and U (Aye Lwin), directors general of the Foreign Ministry, and other responsible officials.

This evening, U Ohn Gyaw hosted a dinner at the Kandawgyi Hotel in honor of Professor Ogata.

Meets Election Officials

BK0511141590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Professor Sadako Ogata, an independent expert on human rights from the United Nations Human Rights Commission, in the company of Mr. (Jacob Muller) from the United Nations Human Rights Commission, visited the Office of the Commission for Holding Multiparty General Elections at No. 95, Natmauk Road, Bahan Township in Yangon [Rangoon] today and called on Commission Chairman U Ba Htay and members U Saw Kyar Doe, U Sann Maung, Saya Chai, and U Kyaw Nyunt. Also present at the meeting was U Aye Maung, secretary of the commission.

It was learned that the commission chairman and members of his commission had a frank and cordial exchange of views on experiences during the elections with Professor Ogata and Mr. (Muller).

Study of British, Japanese 'Killings' Urged

BK0611054690 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 0140 GMT 6 Nov 90

[From the program: "Press Review" of LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN 6 November editorial entitled "Take Serious Note of Losses Suffered by the Myanmar [Burmese] People"]

[Text] Professor Sadako Ogata, representative of the United Nations Human Rights Commission and an independent private expert, accompanied by Mr. (Jacob Muller), veteran officer from the Geneva-based Human Rights Commission, arrived in Yangon [Rangoon] by plane on 3 November 1990 to study human rights issues in Myanmar [Burma].

We would like to inform Professor Sadako Ogata and her delegation of the human rights sufferings of Myanmar. Among them were the killing of 27 Myanmar nationals by the British Army in Taungtha on 23 April 1942. Again on 27 May 1942 the British Army carried out a massacre in Taunggan village in Monywa where 44 Myanmar nationals were killed and seven were wounded. On 21 February 1942 the British Army killed en masse 23 innocent Myanmar nationals and wounded three others in Kyondu village in Kayan township. These incidents should be studied.

Furthermore, we believe mass killings of Myanmar people during the Japanese occupation of Myanmar from 1942 to 1945 should be studied as well. During the construction of the Thai-Myanmar railway, which was built to sustain the war machinery of the Japanese militarists, thousands of Myanmar people were forcibly recruited and subjected to various forms of torture while enslaved by the Japanese, who excelled in brutality. During the Japanese forcible recruitment, 30,000 to 80,000 Myanmar people met their horrible death from hunger and hardships. This point should be studied in detail.

Similarly, there should be serious investigations into matters concerning invaluable royal treasures, including 11 gold statues and Ngamauk ruby which belonged to the kings and royal relatives of the Konbaung dynasty that were taken away by the British troops, other material losses suffered by the Myanmar people because of the British and the Japanese, and the destruction of the Mandalay Palace—a center for Myanmar culture and fine arts. Necessary assistance should be given to Myanmar to compensate for their losses.

We also mention that investigations should cover unsightly scenes of destruction, lawless killings, and loss of human rights suffered by poor public servants caused by incitements by anarchists and Burma Communist Party underground elements, as well as instigations by the foreign broadcasting stations.

We also advise [the delegation] to study objectively the four major tasks being carried out by the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC]—the military government—since it was forced by circumstances to assume state responsibilities; work being carried out currently according to Declaration 1/90; and measures being taken in all matters according to the law and regulations.

We hope the professor, representative from the UN Human Rights Commission, will take into serious consideration the losses the Myanmar people suffered at the hands of the British and the Japanese and measures being undertaken systematically with goodwill for national development by the SLORC since it was forced to assume according to its rules, regulations, decrees, and declarations in reviewing the situation objectively. We hope to give her necessary assistance.

Leading Monk Authority Meeting Issues Directive

BK0511143390 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The third plenary meeting of the State Maha Nayaka Committee [highest leading monk authority] continued for the second day in the Zabudipa Hall on Kaba-Aye hill at 0800 in Yangon [Rangoon] today. The meeting, attended by all 47 abbot members of the committee, decided to issue Directive 81 with the aim of perpetuating different levels of Sangha organizations and for all monks to abide by.

Directive 81 reads: The constitution of the Sangha [Buddhist monks] organization was passed at the First Convocation of the Buddhist Sangha of all sects, and different levels of monk bodies have been formed in accordance with this constitution to perform the duties of purifying, perpetuating, and propagating the religion.

All monks and novices who are in the Union of Myanmar [Burma] shall be part of an organization under the management or supervision of a Sangha Nayaka body [leading regional monk body] formed in accordance with the Sangha organization constitution. This being the case, it will be necessary for the reverend abbots to give proper advice to the monks and novices under their charge not to form, participate in, or encourage or support the illegal monk organizations that do not accept the guidance of different levels of Sangha organizations.

Myo Nyunt on Crime, Corruption Suppression

BK0611071590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Excerpts] A meeting of the Yangon [Rangoon] Division Law and Order Restoration Council to coordinate law and order measures opened in the first-floor conference hall of the Yangon City Hall at 1300 today. Major General Myo Nyunt, commander of the Yangon Military Command and chairman of the Rangoon Division Law and Order Restoration Council, delivered a speech at the meeting. Present were the commanders of the 11th, 22d, and 5th Light Infantry Divisions; commanders of Military Zones; commanders of military units; police adjutant general and the police superintendent general of the People's Police Force Headquarters; members of Yangon Division Law and Order Restoration Council; responsible officials of the Yangon City Development Committee; chairmen of the township zone and township law and order restoration councils; the commander and deputy commander of the Yangon Division People's Police Force; and the commanders of township police forces in Yangon Division.

Addressing the meeting, Major General Myo Nyunt said Order 1/88 was issued by the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] since it started assuming the responsibilities so the immediate tasks of the state could be undertaken. Holding multiparty democratic general elections, the last of the four major tasks, has already been accomplished, and we have already declared we will continue to undertake the first three major tasks. It must be noted that of these three tasks, the task of ensuring prevalence of law and order and regional peace and tranquillity is of greatest priority. Today, it has been more than two years that we have been in charge of the tasks of the state. This period of time should have been enough for you to have settled in all aspects of your work. However, we are still witnessing and hearing about the shortcomings and weaknesses. As the SLORC chairman said during his tour of the Southwest Military Command, we must do everything possible in any given responsibility to ensure development in the country. If we study the crimes committed between January and October 1990 in Yangon Division, there were 4,642 cases under four types of theft and 360 cases of crime which can be listed under six types of felonies. Only one other felony out of seven types of felonies—kidnapping—was not committed. [passage omitted]

Major General Myo Nyunt said that although there is a maxim that those who commit a crime cannot run away from the crime, we have heard that if one pays, one can get away because of some self-seeking members of the People's Police Force. It need not be said here that a case has to be prepared properly before it is brought before a court. If the preparation of the case is not complete, the defendant can get away. Some are taking advantage of this point in contacting legal agents who promise to make arrangements for cases to be tried by a civilian court instead of by a military tribunal. Despite these repeated warnings, action had to be taken against some for their transgression. Therefore, he said, he would again like to tell those who fighting crime to carry out their work accurately and correctly. [passage omitted]

He called on township law and order restoration councils within the [Yangon City] Development Area to jointly maintain roads, parks, temples, and pagodas restored by the state with the local people and said they should organize the local people in the respective townships to take their own initiatives in construction projects like the people in areas outside the development area. He then instructed the township law and order restoration councils to study self-seeking and lawless activities of ward law and order restoration councils and take effective action against them. He said verbal and written pledges made by them saying utmost efforts are being made are not acceptable. He said they should just earnestly attend to their tasks. He said those who lied by saying they are making utmost efforts have to be replaced as they have exhausted their efforts. He said, in short, he would like them to study in detail the speech by the chairman of the SLORC and the commander in chief of the Defense Services delivered on 2 November at the Southwest Military Command in working for maintenance of law and order.

The meeting ended at 1430.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

$100,000 in Aid Donated to Mandela's ANC

BK0511162290 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1430 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Brunei Darussalam has made a U.S. $100,000 humanitarian assistance to the African National Congress [ANC]. According to a (?report) from Brunei, the contribution was announced by the sultan when the ANC vice president, Mr. Nelson Mandela, was granted an audience with the state ruler in Bandar Seri Begawan. The Brunei foreign minister, who is the younger brother of the sultan, hosted a luncheon in honor of the visiting ANC leader.

Malaysia

Communist Threat in Sarawak Ends as 50 Surrender

BK0311140890 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Fifty communist terrorist remnants in Sarawak have come out of the jungles, ending over 30 years of communist threat in Malaysia. Twenty-one members of the North Kalimantan Communist Party [PKKU] left the jungle in Kanoi District in Sibuy Division, while another 29 terrorists left the jungle in Tinjar in Miri Division. The banned PKKU signed an agreement on laying down its arms with the government in Kuching on 17 October, about 11 months after the banned Communist Party of Malaya signed similar agreements with the Malaysian and Thai Governments.

Mahathir on UMNO Entry Into Sabah Politics

BK0311145090 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Italicized portions in English]

[Excerpt] The PBS [Sabah United Party] is opposed to the entry of the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] into Sabah because some leaders fear their irregularities will be exposed.

[Begin Mahathir recording] We believe they are afraid the UMNO will expose all their wrongdoings. This has caused fear among certain leaders in Sabah. Until to now, they have been able to rule Sabah as they like, and no one has criticized them. They now worry, however, that UMNO will detect irregularities committed by the Sabah leaders. Accordingly, they will be worried if we are there. In fact, Sabah is not for Sabahans alone. Sabah is part of Malaysia, and other states accept Sabahans and Malaysians. Any assumption that Sabah is a foreign state is not accurate. Jeffrey Kitingan [younger brother of Sabah Chief Minister Joseph Pairin Kitingan] used to ask me whether *a Sabahan can become prime minister or not.* My answer is that *a Sabahan cannot become prime minister.* A Malaysian can. *A Malaysian can become prime minister.* There would be no place for him if he says he wants to become *the Sabah prime minister of Malaysia.* I am not *the Kedah prime minister of Malaysia.* I am just *prime minister of Malaysia. I am a Malaysian.* He wanted to know whether Sabah could rule Malaysia. Thus, he asked whether *a Sabahan could become prime minister of Malaysia.* This shows how shallow and parochial the PBS leaders are, particularly the two persons Pairin Kitingan and Jeffrey Kitingan, or Joseph and Jeffrey. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ghafar Baba Defends Entry

BK0311062190 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Mr. Ghafar Baba [deputy prime minister and deputy president of the United Malays National Organization—UMNO] says the call by Datuk Dr. Joseph Pairin Kitingan, president of the Sabah United Party, on the people of Sabah to reject the entry of UMNO and other peninsula-based parties into the state stems from the latter's desire to maintain the status quo in state politics. This is not healthy for Malaysia.

Mr. Ghafar was commenting on press reports that Datuk Pairin was urging the people of Sabah to reject the entry of UMNO and other peninula-based parties. Datuk Pairin was also reported to have charged that if UMNO was allowed to enter Sabah, the state's interests would not only be neglected but the people of Sabah would also be governed by outsiders in charge of this party. Mr. Ghafar says the call has clearly shown that Datuk Pairin does not comprehend the meaning of national unity.

Mr. Ghafar also rejected Datuk Pairin's charges that the rights of the people of Sabah would be abolished. The rights they are now enjoying remain unchanged on the basis of an agreement under which Sabah joined Malaysia.

On the intention of the Malaysian Chinese Association to enter Sabah, Mr. Ghafar said this testified to free and healthy politics in Malaysia. Political parties are not restricted to one particular place or race. Mr. Ghafar also said that the National Front would select candidates for the United Sabah National Organization in state legislative assembly by-elections in the Sipitang and Sulabayan constituencies. [Ghafar Baba recording indistinct] [passage omitted]

Commentary Hails Outcome of ASEAN Meeting

BK0111122490 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] One of the most positive outcomes of the two-day ASEAN economic ministers meeting held in Denpasar, Bali this week was the adoption of new measures designed to boost trade and investment ties among the six member countries. Their collective decision to provide greater access and offer more incentives to investors in ASEAN industrial joint venture, or AIJV, projects is the most welcome development and a step in the right direction.

ASEAN, formed in 1967 with Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines and later Brunei Darussalam as members, had made little progress in the past years in bringing their economies closer together, partly because most of them previously exported much the same competing agricultural and mining products. The picture now is different because of changing structures of their economies and their moves toward manufacturing. There is also a growing awareness of the potential of ASEAN among the business communities in the member countries, and there are signs of growing cooperation within the group prompted by business interests even without government initiative. [Words indistinct] for greater intra-ASEAN trade in the future.

What ASEAN businessmen are urged to do now is recognize the need to adopt bold and innovative approaches in their economic cooperation. The newly emerging patterns of trade, investment, and specialization in the Asia-Pacific and European regions pose fresh challenges. ASEAN must ensure that its industrial sector has access to productive technologies, research and development, and human resources development facilities in order to meet those challenges. There is also a need to simplify tariff structures in ASEAN countries to enable a freer flow of goods among member countries.

The recent introduction of the preferential tariff arrangements, or PTA, on movement of goods among member countries is a positive step toward this direction. The ASEAN customs administrations can play a major part in facilitating intra-ASEAN trade. In respect of the Malaysian customs administration, various measures have been or are being taken to ensure fast clearance of goods. One of these is the implementation of the immediate release system, IRS, aimed at easing congestion at major ports and airports. Under the IRS, certain types of goods, such as non-dutiable items, are accorded direct release facility without having to go through a physical examination.

With regards to the AIJV projects, there have been hindrances in the past affecting their smooth implementation. Prior to the ministerial meeting, Indonesian Trade Minister Arifin Siregar has voiced concern over the slow progress of approved projects. In fact, only eight projects under AIJV have been approved for implementation, much lower than expected, and even these have not made much headway. Hopefully, with the agreement among the economic ministers on the offer of greater access and more incentives to investors, the industrial joint-venture projects will be more speedily implemented, leading to greater economic progress and prosperity in the ASEAN region.

Vietnamese Boat People Returned Under UN Plan

BK0411141690 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] A group of 52 Vietnamese boat people have been repatriated under the UN repatriation program, while 39 others will leave Malaysia for Vietnam on Wednesday [7 November]. This will bring the total number of boat people repatriated since 1989 to 275.

According to a memorandum of understanding signed between the SRV Government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, each repatriated refugee is entitled to receive a monthly allowance of $35 for one year. Children are entitled to half that amount. Refugees will also receive equipment to facilitate their reentry into Vietnamese society.

The boat people who have been repatriated spent six months to a year in Malaysia. There are two one-year-old girls among them, one of them born in Malaysia. A 51-year-old farmer and his son were among the returnees. Five boat people decided to return to Vietnam after the Malaysian Government refused to grant them refugee status. Another group of 120 boat people are now waiting for the Vietnamese Government's approval to return home.

Abu Hassan Views Economic Ties With Denmark

BK0511085890 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar says there is still a lot of untapped economic potential in Denmark and Malaysia which both countries can mutually tap. He says bilateral trade between the two countries is still small, amounting to only 287.70 million ringgit last year. The inflow of Danish investment into Malaysia has been slow. The Malaysian Government and the private sector share Danish desire to promote closer economic ties. He said this in a dinner in honor of visiting Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Elemann-Jensen in Kuala Lumpur.

Datuk Abu Hassan hoped Denmark will continue to play a moderating role within the European Parliament which has called for a ban on import of tropical hardwood from Sarawak. He described the move as yet another nontariff export barrier against developing countries. It seems to be based on the premise that developing countries should bear the burden of halting the deterioration of the global environment. According to Datuk Abu Hassan, Denmark can play a role within the European Community in resisting protectionism and promoting expanded trade.

Singapore

U.S. Regrets Break-In of Thai Envoy's House

BK0211170090 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Singapore has expressed deep regret over the break-in of the Thai ambassador's residence by an American sailor last Thursday. The embassy said although there was some damage to property, it is believed that the ambassador of Thailand and his family were unharmed.

The U.S. Government [words indistinct] full responsibility for all damage [words indistinct] including repairs. U.S. officials, including the ambassador, Mr. Robert Orr, have visited the [words indistinct] to apologize.

The sailor who was arrested after a short chase has been released to the U.S. Navy. Officials from the U.S. Navy Investigation Service are in Singapore to investigate the incident. Following the results of the investigation, the sailor will be subject to U.S. military disciplinary proceedings.

Goh Chok Tong Announces Final Cabinet Changes

BK0511113890 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Nov 90 p 1

[By Zuraidah Ibrahim]

[Text] Mr. Goh Chok Tong yesterday revealed the final changes in the new Cabinet he will head as Prime Minister after Nov 28.

Meeting the press for the third time in five weeks, he announced that Dr. Yeo Ning Hong and Dr. Lee Boon Yang will be the two men to assist him at the Defence Ministry. Dr. Yeo will be the Second Defence Minister and Communications Minister. He is now one of two Second Defence Ministers besides being Minister for Communications and Information. Dr. Lee, now Senior Minister of State (National Development and Home Affairs) will move full-time to Defence.

Mr. Goh also announced that:

—Brigadier-General [BG] (Res) [Reservist] George Yeo will be promoted to Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, in addition to being Acting Minister of the new Ministry of Information and the Arts.

Now the Minister of State for Finance and Foreign Affairs, he will move out of Finance.

—Mr. Peter Sung will move out of Foreign Affairs to be the Minister of State for Home Affairs, while staying on as Minister of State for National Development.

—Senior Parliamentary Secretary Ho Kah Leong and Political Secretary Mohamad Maidin will move from the Communications and Information Ministry to the new Ministry of Information and the Arts.

—Mr. Ng Pock Too will step down as Political Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office.

It was announced earlier that Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew would become a Senior Minister after he steps aside for Mr. Goh.

There will be two Deputy Prime Ministers, Mr. Ong Teng Cheong and Brigadier-General (Res) Lee Hsien Loong. BG Lee will give up his portfolio as Second Defence Minister (Services), but will stay on as Trade and Industry Minister. And Acting Health Minister Yeo Cheow Tong will be promoted to a full minister.

Mr. Goh said yesterday that ministers unaffected by the changes announced so far would retain their present portfolios. An official announcement would be made shortly before Nov 28.

He met reporters briefly at the Changi Airport yesterday morning before leaving for a two-day unofficial visit to Brunei.

Asked if there would be a replacement for BG Yeo as Minister of State for Finance, he replied: "I don't have enough people to do that." But he added that there were other Cabinet ministers competent enough to give inputs on finance and the post would be filled eventually.

He said that after becoming Prime Minister, he would retain Mr. Matthias Yao as his political secretary. "As Mr. Lee will no longer be Prime Minister, Mr. Ng Pock Too will retire as political secretary," he added.

Mr. Ng, the MP Nee Soon Central, left the National Trades Union Congress [NTUC] as a deputy secretary-general and member of the NTUC Central Committee in July to take up the post of group chief executive-designate of the Sembawang group.

Mr. Goh said that there would also be changes in the Government Parliamentary Committees [GPCs] after he becomes Prime Minister. These would include changes of the chairmen of the 10 groups, each comprising government backbenchers who focus on specific ministries, and of the resource panel members. The chairmanship for the GPC for Health will be vacant as its present chairman, Dr. Aline Wong, will be appointed Minister of State for Health in the new Government.

Mr. Goh said that Parliament would be prorogued after the Bill providing for an Elected President was approved by the House. The Bill, which amends the Constitution, is now before a Parliamentary Select Committee. He expected the panel to take two months to study submission from the public and interview representers before deciding whether to amend the Bill. He expected parliament to approve it in January. It would be tidier to prorogue Parliament after that. Otherwise, the Bill would lapse and would have to be reintroduced later, he said.

Asked what his priorities would be as Prime Minister, Mr. Goh said: "The concern will be how to keep Singapore going. It seems easy but to maintain Singapore in a prosperous state requires a lot of attention."

He was hopeful that there would be no "drastic, unfortunate" happenings, noting that the Gulf crisis might have a serious impact on Singapore. "So my first concern is to keep Singapore whole, to keep Singapore growing, to keep Singapore prosperous, so that all of us can enjoy a better standard of living."

Beyond that, he hoped to see Singapore elevate itself into a more gracious, more courteous, and refined society.

He said that he would move into his new office at the Istana [palace] Annex a few days before Nov 28, to check that "everything works". He will be sworn in at the City Hall Chambers, where Mr. Lee took his oath as Prime Minister 31 years ago.

"It will be, I hope, a simple yet dignified ceremony," he said.

The event will be telecast live.

"And then my work begins almost immediately," he added.

Cambodia

National Assembly Standing Committee Meets

BK0511142190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] On the morning of 5 November, the standing committee of the National Assembly of the Cambodian State held a meeting under the chairmanship of National Assembly Chairman Comrade Chea Sim to examine and decide on a number of matters proposed by the Council of State and the Council of Ministers in order to include them in the agenda of the upcoming extraordinary session of the National Assembly. Apart from this, the committee discussed and adopted the agenda and prodecures in connection with the extraordinary session.

The meeting ended at 1100 with success and in a joyful atmosphere of steadfast solidarity and unity.

Chea Sim Opens Session 6 Nov

BK0611075290 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Station correspondent's report on opening of the extraordinary session of the National Assembly]

[Text] An extraordinary session of the first National Assembly was opened at 0800 this morning at the National Assembly building under the chairmanship of Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia. Attending the session were the comrade assembly members from all 21 constituencies throughout the country and the comrade ministers, deputy ministers, directors general, and deputy directors general from various central ministries and departments. Also present were the comrade ambassadors, charges d'affaires, and representatives of the friendly countries' embassies in the State of Cambodia.

Addressing the opening of the National Assembly session, Comrade Chea Sim noted:

[Begin Chea Sim recording] In an atmosphere of great joy, our National Assembly holds its extraordinary session today to examine and decide on various important issues of urgency arising in conformity with the needs and requirements of our nation.

As is known to all excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, all venerable clergymen, comrades, and friends, in our national society, the implementation of the resolutions of the party Central Committee's 11th session and the spirit of the National Assembly's 19th session has been carried out actively and in an in-depth manner, thus significantly determining a new step of quantitative and qualitative progress. The consolidation of discipline and work efficiency is proceeding simultaneously with the struggle to eradicate the stagnant phenomena in the society and the upholding of the sense of thrift which are becoming a concretely unified movement throughout the country, thus enhancing the spirit of patriotism and love for the people among all sectors and all levels. This measure has helped to enhance our people's confidence in our new regime and mobilized our great national union around the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] to uphold the banners of independence, peace, and national reconciliation.

This is also the historic period in which the process to seek a political solution for the Cambodian problem has reached an important turning point through the formation of the Supreme National Council [SNC] during the informal meeting on Cambodia held in Jakarta in September. More than ever before, this has clearly displayed the hope for peace. The move forward is absolutely irreversible. However, there still exist acute threats and destructive acts to bar this progress. This is because the other Cambodian side wants to use the peace process to gain maximum benefits and seek supremacy in the SNC without heeding the vital interests of our nation and people. Moreover, they still dream of winning a military victory. They have continued to use military measures as a means to realize their ambition, massacre our innocent people, and destroy national property.

Therefore, while speaking about peace, they are making preparations, such as transporting weapons and ammunition, to launch a large-scale offensive before a permanent agreement is reached and to expand their zone of control. At the same time, they joined the negotiating table with a clear aim to destroy the peace process or at least to deadlock the negotiations so as to prolong the war, which will be favorable to the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

In this connection, we can see through their perfidious maneuvers at the first SNC meeting in which they tried to link the interests of peace and the nation with the personal role of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. This is to create an obstacle hindering the discussion on other more urgent and important issues, such as the dispatch of an SNC delegation to attend the 45th UN General Assembly, a voluntary cease-fire, and cessation of foreign military aid.

Our State of Cambodia has firmly adhered to its sincere goodwill to end the war quickly and continued to attend all negotiating forums. At present, we are encouraged by the fact that the entire world community is supporting our correct struggling cause.

On this occasion, on behalf of the National Assembly and the Cambodian people throughout the country who have expressed their desire for peace through their petitions sent from all areas throughout the country, I would like to declare that the principled stance and view of our State of Cambodia, which are also the sacred aspirations of our Cambodian people, are that we want a long-lasting peace with a clear guarantee for the nonreturn of the genocidal Pol Pot regime, the thorough respect for the State of Cambodia's independence and sovereignty, and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination.

Also on this occasion, the State of Cambodia's National Assembly would like to reiterate its energetic support for the appeal of the Supreme Soviet whose noble aim is to serve the common interests of mankind through the early cessation of all nuclear arms tests permanently.

The State of Cambodia's National Assembly agrees that this is an excellent step to guarantee the nonproliferation, nonproduction, and the dismantling of nuclear arms, and ensure the salvation of mankind from the nuclear arms holocaust. This point is very important. New changes in the international situation are favorable to the consolidation of international peace and security and the increase of mutual trust and broad cooperation among all nations and peoples on our earth in the current era.

Dear comrades and friends: The issues in the agenda that you will soon examine and discuss are significant matters linked closely to the political life of our society and to the current peace process. Therefore, I make a sacred request to all comrades and friends to please enhance your zeal and wisdom to creatively take part in making this extraordinary session achieve brilliant success, thus contributing to our noble cause, which states that everything is for enhancing the people's confidence in our new regime; everything is for the well-being of our people.

While expressing my deep thanks to all venerable clergymen and all national and international guests, I declare the opening of the extraordinary session. [applause] [end recording]

This ceremony proceeded in a joyous atmosphere permeated with spirit of solidarity and unity as one around the KPRP leadership.

Editorial Welcomes Session

BK0611055590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Station editorial: "Warmly Welcome the Extraordinary Session of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly"]

[Text] Today, 6 November, the National Assembly, which is the high representative organ of our people, solemnly convenes an extraordinary session to examine and decide upon some important issues that are matters of urgency arising according to new developments in our country. It is the second extraordinary session of the National Assembly in 1990 proceeding at a time when the meeting to sum up the past politico-military work of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces has just ended successfully and the pipal tree planting, the regatta, and illuminated floats and moon festivals were just passed successfully in a joyous atmosphere, thus reflecting the keen attention of the party, National Assembly, government, and front in preserving our national traditions and culture.

The National Assembly extraordinary session takes place at a time when the implementation of the resolutions of the fifth party Central Committee's 11th session and the spirit of the first National Assembly's 19th session is being carried out actively and in an in-depth manner throughout the country. Cadres at all levels and our people from all walks of life are striving to consolidate their discipline and work efficiency, exercising all their rights as masters of the national destiny, jointly struggling to eradicate all the stagnant phenomena in the country, and enhancing the sense of thrift, which have become a concrete movement that clearly reflects the spirit of patriotism and love for the people.

Moreover, as our National Assembly is holding this extraordinary session, the struggle on the diplomatic field is proceeding tensely and complexly. The other Cambodian side wants to use the process for a peaceful solution to the Cambodian problem as a means to seize maximum benefits and particularly the supremacy in the Supreme National Council which has been established in Jakarta on 10 September. It pays no attention to the vital interests of the Cambodian people. On the contrary, it only dreams of winning through military means so it can fulfill its ambition and continue to destroy our national society and massacre our people.

Abiding by our people's sacred aspirations displayed through their petitions to the National Assembly, government, and front, the State of Cambodia has stood firm on its sincere goodwill to quickly end the civil war and has continued attending all negotiating forums.

Based on this atmosphere, during the current extraordinary session, the National Assembly—the top body of the State of Cambodia—will examine, discuss, and adopt a resolution on a number of issues relating to the organization of high-ranking cadres and some other matters that are urgent and essential to the national society. In addition, the National Assembly will also listen to the Council of Ministers' report on the situation regarding the negotiations to seek a political solution for the Cambodian problem to advance quickly toward ending our people's suffering. The State of Cambodia's National Assembly will also discuss some international political issues, particularly the appeal of the Supreme Soviet whose noble aim is to serve the common interests of mankind through the permanent cessation of all nuclear arms tests.

Firmly confident in this popular representative organ, our Cambodian people throughout the country express their warm welcome to the extraordinary session of the National Assembly and wish it success. The entire party and all the people and Armed Forces are preparing to implement conscientiously the resolution of this session.

Heng Samrin Chairs State Council Session

BK0411113290 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1140 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh 3 Nov (SPK)—The State of Cambodia's Council of State recently met in Phnom Penh in the presence of its Chairman Heng Samrin.

The Council of State decided to confer 24 National Defense medals [words indistinct] the report to be submitted to the National Assembly on the cancellation of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation and the consular agreement between the State of Cambodia and the GDR.

It also decided to decorate an official of the Education Ministry, 64 combatants of the Army and the security forces, 37 service employees, and 10 workers.

The council also [words indistinct] the deputy prosecutor general of the People's Supreme Court and listened to the report on some changes at the ministerial and provincial levels.

Chea Soth Opens Film-Video Festival 4 Nov

BK0511072790 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Summary] The first Cambodian film-video festival was opened on 4 November in Phnom Penh by the Ministry of Information and Culture under the chairmanship of Comrade Chea Soth, member of the the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers. Taking part in this festival were 78 private film and video-making companies.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Comrade Chea Soth highly valued all companies for their creative work in contributing to the people's entertainment and the growth of our national culture.

The festival will last until 19 November.

Boat People Apply To Go Home for First Time

BK0611033990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0256 GMT 6 Nov 90

[By Leo Dobbs]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 6 (AFP)—Cambodian boat people living in camps in Southeast Asia have applied for the first time to return home, informed sources said. A group of 54 Cambodians who reached Indonesia by boat has asked to return home and their applications were received by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office here Friday, the sources said. Three Cambodians in Malaysian camps applied for repatriation in July and their cases were still under review, the sources added.

It was believed to be the first time that Cambodian boat people have applied to return home and observers said the voluntary repatriations would be a coup for the government, which is battling a three-party resistance.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) would try to trace family or friends of the hopeful returnees and the ultimate decision would rest with the Council of Ministers, the sources said. The process should take no longer than three months, they said.

Many of the boat people in Indonesia seeking repatriation had cited as a reason for leaving Cambodia the civil war in Indochina or that they had "followed friends for an adventure." They included fishermen, traders and students.

Observers noted that many Cambodians had set sail late last year and earlier this year from ports such as Kompong Som in the hope of reaching Australia via Indonesia. They said many of the boat people were young single males men [as received] who may have been escaping conscription.

UNHCR officials here, meanwhile, said the humanitarian body had helped repatriate 55 Cambodian refugees from camps inside Thailand this year. They said that another 80 applications were in the pipeline. More than 300,000 Cambodians are housed in the camps along the Thai-Cambodian border after fleeing their homeland to escape fighting and harsh living conditions. The UNHCR, with the help of other organisations, is drawing up plans for their repatriation in the event of a settlement being reached to end the fighting between Phnom Penh forces and the guerrilla alliance.

Acting U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Douglas Stafford left here Monday for Bangkok and Geneva after talks with senior officials on the repatriation programme.

Hun Sen Receives Thai Brahman, Expresses Thanks

BK0311111690 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1116 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh 2 Nov (SPK)—Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, on 31 October received in Phnom Penh Charun Nunsunanon, Thai brahman representing the "Moscishi Heaven on Earth Corporation Limited."

Chairman Hun Sen informed the brahman of the Cambodian people's aspiration to live in peace and rebuild their homeland. He also expressed thanks to the corporation and the brahman for their sympathy and desire to assist Cambodia.

The brahman talked about activities and projects of the corporation and himself for the development of Cambodia.

SPK on Foreign Airline Flights to Phnom Penh

BK0311045690 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1144 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh 1 Nov (SPK)—This year, the Civil Aviation Department of Cambodia has signed contracts with three foreign companies. These are "Airways" of Bangkok, "Air Liberty", a private French company, and "Air Belgium" of Belgium.

It is the first time that Cambodia has established such a cooperation with capitalist countries in accordance with the new state economic policy and the country's development.

The Thai company "Airways" will organize flights between Phnom Penh and Bangkok every Monday and Thursday.

The private French company will start its first Paris-Phnom Penh flight in November 1990 before undertaking regular flights every Thursday.

Passengers can also take "Air Belgium" which links Phnom Penh and the Belgian capital twice a month starting from November. Other companies, such as the "Filinnas Orient Airways" also envisage direct flights to Phnom Penh.

SPK Summarizes Oct Military Activities

BK0211123990 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0511 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 2—In October this year, government troops in the northwestern border provinces in a series of counter-attacks against the enemy, killed 139 enemy troops, captured 42, forced 87 to surrender and wounded a number of others.

Among those killed, two were Polpotist regiment commanders.

The government troops also seized 72 firearms and a large quantity of other war means.

Phnom Penh Notes 22-28 Oct Battle Actions

BK0311114090 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] In the week of 22-28 October, the three reactionary Cambodian gangs continued to fire all types of artillery shells on some remote areas bordering Thailand in western Cambodia. The enemies fired 350-400 artillery shells on some areas in Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, and Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Provinces, destroying innocent people's property and life.

During the same period, our Armed Forces lauched counterattacks against the enemies to defend the areas and people and successfully maintained stability there. As a matter of fact, our Armed Forces killed 25, captured five, and persuaded 16 enemy soldiers to surrender. They also seized 18 firearms, 10 artillery shells, and some war materiel.

Reports 27-29 Oct Results

BK0411071290 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1202 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 3 November (SPK)—On 29 October, the Cambodian Armed Forces, in an ambush against a large group of enemies in Chikreng District of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, put 79 enemy soldiers out of action, including 70 killed on the battlefield and nine captured, and seized 24 firearms.

It is worth recalling that on 28 October in the same province, 40 enemy soldiers were killed in Svay Leu District and six guns seized by the government forces.

Moreover, on 27 October, Kompong Thom Province's Armed Forces, in mopping-up operations against the enemy in Trapeang Kan Sak area, killed 12 enemy soldiers on the battlefield, including two commanders, and seized 14 firearms and one walkie-talkie.

On 29 October, the provincial Armed Forces killed 22 enemy soldiers in an area east of Stoung District and seized a great deal of war equipment.

Indonesia

Military Chief Warns Nation of 'Vulnerabilities'

BK0511115690 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1014 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 05 (OANA-ANTARA)—Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno has reminded the nation that Indonesia is now in a transitionary process toward a modern society in the midst of a world environment that is rapidly changing. The transitionary process will bring the nation from a certain condition to a new situation, toward the emergence of a final form that will (before the arrival of the final form) invite many vulnerabilities, Gen Try said.

He was speaking at the closing of the Armed Forces 1990 commanders call at the Armed Forces Headquarters in Cilangkap Saturday night [3 November].

On the other hand, the commander said, this process will also be easily influenced by forces from outside toward whatever form that is in step with the rhythm that accompanies these outside forces.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian nation has always been determined to actuate the ideals of its own independence and will not allow the transition to be pushed by forces that are foreign to the values of the Pancasila national ideology and the Constitution of 1945, he said.

For that reason, he said, the people need directives, references, and norms that are derived from the values of Pancasila which have to be immediately applied in all walks of life and in all fields of development so that the final form achieved will be the manifestation of the national aspirations. These have to be fully realized, and we have to be vigilant about these, because there will surely be various attractions and pressures in the transitionary process, appearing in all aspects of the national life, Gen Try said.

When these vulnerabilities converge with vulnerabilities and instability of the transitionary period, they can easily develop to become obstacles, disturbances, and threats not only against national stability but also against the values and norms of the Pancasila ideology which has united the Indonesian nation.

In another part of his speech, Gen Try urged the Armed Forces to step up its active role in drafting and formulating conceptions pertaining to the implementation of the Pancasila ideology. For that purpose, communications with the public have to be intensified in order to absorb the aspirations that are alive among the people.

Reports on Meeting to Suharto

BK0511080490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0509 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 5 (AFP)—Military chief General Try Sutrisno Monday called for alertness in facing recent demands in Indonesia for more political freedom, openness and justice. "Several examples of recent events, which appeared in the form of ideas of openness, self-dependence, freedom, justice and others, if not accompanied by a high level of alertness, can lead towards a fundamental change in values," Gen. Try said.

If they were not strongly based on the country's own norms, these demands for change could easily lead towards violations of the fundamental values of the national struggle and the nation's identity, Gen. Try said in a report to President Suharto. Freedom and openness in Indonesia "is not freedom without reins and also not openness without limits of responsibilities," he said.

The general was reporting on a three-day annual meeting of the country's military leaders attended by 170 senior commanders and officers who discussed various issues and developments and their links to national stability and security. The meeting closed late Saturday.

Indonesians have been increasingly vocal in calling for more political freedom and openness and in protesting against what they say are the negative side effects of several government development projects.

Many groups, including some outside Jakarta, have directly presented their complaints and grievances on various social and political issues to parliament and ministers since last year. "The trends of a group of people, with no authority but wanting to force their own wishes (on others), to claim to speak for the people is the materialisation of attitudes and actions not reflecting a mature and respectful self dependence," Gen. Try said.

He reiterated the Armed Forces' continuing pledge to deal with any attempt to violate or undermine the country's ideology and Constitution.

Mr. Suharto told the military leaders, who paid him a courtesy visit Monday, that the Armed Forces should not only rid the country of internal and external security threats but also help weed them out at their roots. "Various forms of security disturbances are often just the outer signs of deeper problems. Therefore, concurrently with the handling of the external symptoms of these security disturbances, the root causes of these problems should also be handled," Mr. Suharto told Armed Forces leaders.

Mr. Suharto said the military should be able to identify the root causes of disturbances and consequently formulate policies to prevent and overcome them. "Tactical security steps are important. But tactical security steps alone have never been sufficient to safeguard national development," Mr. Suharto said referring to the military's use of force in eliminating subversion, infiltrations and possible aggression from abroad.

However, Mr. Suharto reminded the military leaders that leeway should also be provided for the people to develop initiatives and creativity, something which he said, was an "absolute neccessity" for national development. "Experience shows that nations which give wide opportunity to the growth and development of people's initiatives and creativity can firmly and continuously progress," Mr. Suharto said.

Magazine Closed Down To Avoid Offending Muslims

BK0511014090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0412 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Jakarta, Nov 4 (AFP)—The publisher of an Indonesian magazine has voluntarily closed down one of its publications for running a picture which could be offensive to Moslems, Information Minister Harmoko has said. The closure came just 11 days after the government banned a popular weekly tabloid owned by the same publisher for running a poll offensive to Moslems.

"The closing down of the SENANG magazine was the publisher's own act of responsibility. The revocation of the publishing license was by its own publisher," Mr. Harmoko told journalists after the opening ceremony of a local fair late Saturday.

The minister, however, added that despite the move legal action could still be taken against the publisher.

The publishers closed the bi-weekly magazine Friday after publishing a fictional representation of the Prophet Mohammad in its late-September issue to illustrate a letter from a reader who claimed to have met the prophet in a dream. The picture depicted a cloaked and turbanned figure with a blank face. Under Islamic teaching, the visual representation of the prophet's face is strictly forbiden.

SENANG is published by the same publishing group which owns MONITOR, a popular Indonesian weekly tabloid banned on October 23 for having run the results of a reader's poll of their "most admired person." [passage omitted]

Editorial Supports Banning of Jakarta Tabloid

BK0411153490 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 23 Oct 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The MONITOR Tabloid Indeed Made a Mistake"]

[Text] The director general of press and graphics promotion of the Information Department has issued a strong warning to the MONITOR tabloid over the survey it conducted entitled: "This is it: 50 Persons Our Readers Most Admired". The survey was published by MONITOR on Monday 15 October 1990.

In its warning to the tabloid, the Information Department pointed out that the survey might cause misunderstanding and hurt the feelings of others, especially Muslims. The survey may also cause conflicts among different ethnic, religious, and racial groups.

By publishing the survey without considering the potential conflicts it may cause, especially a conflict caused by lack of religious sensitivity, MONITOR had indeed made the wrong move. The fact that the survey involved the person of a religious prophet who is highly respected by followers of all religions has made us regret and criticize MONITOR's action.

MONITOR was not wise enough to use press freedom to the extent that it forgot its sense of responsibility in the publishing world. If MONITOR had had a greater sense of responsibility and religious sensitivity, it would not only have double checked its style of writing, contents, and attractive presentation, but it would also have considered a very important aspect, namely the structure of the society in which the tabloid was circulating. If a publication forgets this last aspect, the message it wants to impart to the public will not only miss the target, but it will backfire.

As for the structure of the Indonesian society, it is often pointed out that our society is pluralistic, with certain sensitive points that may bring about various conflicts cited above. Therefore, to make our society live harmoniously, we must first avoid any action that may affect such sensitive points, which may in turn lead to serious upheavals. Such upheavals may have a serious impact not only on certain groups but also on the entire nation.

All quarters, groups, and elements in the Indonesian society obviously do not want such serious consequences, which may destroy national unity and integrity we have cherished for many decades. Thanks to such national unity and integrity, the country has been able to carry out its development program and achieve its current level of development. Therefore, we believe that all groups in our society will do their best to prevent such serious consequences from taking place in our pluralistic society by observing the rules of the game in our society, which is based on the state Constitution and other existing laws.

Jakarta Calls for Joint PNG Border Patrols

BK0511155990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1235 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 5 (AFP)—Indonesian Defence Minister Benny Murdani said Monday that Jakarta has called for a joint patrol to be set up with Papua New Guinea to oversee their common border areas. Mr. Murdani said that the patrol would help Jakarta overcome disturbances by the Free Papua Movement (OPM).

The OPM has fought sporadic battles for independence in Indonesia's province of Irian Jaya and a small uprising in 1984 saw about 10,000 Irian Jayanese flee over the border into Papua New Guinea (PNG). Many OPM members were believed to operate from within PNG territory.

Indonesia took control of predominantly Melanesian Irian Jaya, formerly Dutch New Guinea, in 1963 and formally incorporated as its easternmost province in 1969.

Mr. Murdani cited his PNG counterpart Penias Sabumei as having told him during his visit here last month that despite Port Moresby's lack of military personnel it would help Indonesia on the OPM issue. "He said that the OPM will no longer be a problem of Indonesia only but also that of Papua New Guinea," Mr. Murdani said.

Bilateral ties have improved with the signing of a friendship treaty in 1986. A joint border committee meets annually to discuss and overcome problems along the 800 kilometre (500 mile) frontier.

National Police Exercises Held With Malaysia

BK0311060190 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The National Police of the Republic of Indonesia is always on alert for a possible use of Indonesian territory, including its waters, as a transit site for drugs from the Golden Triangle area to Europe. The alert continues to be enhanced to anticipate new developments, although no proof has been found.

Police Brigadier General Mohamed Hindarto, director of the Field Center of the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia, said this to newsmen following the close of a four-day joint exercise codenamed "Aman Malindo-9" in Johor waters on the Melaka Straits. The joint exercise between the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia and the Royal Malaysian Police was held to enhance cooperation in coping with criminal cases faced by the two sides through joint operations.

Two patrol boats of the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia and 69 personnel, including three women, took part in the exercise, while the Royal Malaysian Police sent four patrol boats with 110 personnel.

Japanese Accord Signed for Food Production Aid

BK0311034190 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0925 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 2 (OANA/ANTARA)—The Japanese Government has provided a grant of 1,850 million yens (about 14.2 million U.S dollars) to the Indonesian Government to step up food production in Indonesia. The signing and exchange of diplomatic notes on the grant was conducted here Thursday by the Foreign Ministry's Foreign Economic Relations Director General Puji Kuntarso and the Japanese Ambassador to Indonesia Michihiko Kunihiro representing the respective governments.

Kuntarso explained, the grant would be used among other things for the procurement of agricultural machinery and equipment, buying of pesticides, payments for cost of services needed and for transportation costs to step up production of rice, soy bean, corn and other foodstuffs.

The grant would be allocated to the Agriculture Ministry, the Cooperative Ministry, Public Works Ministry and the Transmigration Ministry.

The Agriculture Ministry would use its grant allocation for activities to overcome problems arising from the long dry season and to speed up programs for protecting the harvest in the eastern parts of Indonesia, as well as to widen diversification of food production in eastern Indonesia and in transmigration areas.

The Cooperative Ministry would use its (?allocation) to enhance the capabilities of village cooperative units (KUD) by providing agricultural equipment such as rice-milling machines.

On the other hand, the Public Works Ministry would concentrate on the construction and repair of irrigation works and the procurement of heavy equipment such as bulldozers, whereas the Transmigration Ministry preferred to improve the infrastructure at transmigration sites, as well as the irrigation pumps and spraying equipment to exterminate insects.

Alatas, Germany's Genscher Sign Agreement

BK0311141490 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and his German counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher have signed an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation in Bonn. A press release issued today by the Directorate of Foreign Information Service of the Foreign Affairs Department said the agreement supersedes an earlier agreement signed in 1977, which is considered no longer relevant to the existing taxation laws in both countries. The agreement on the avoidance of double taxation covers several taxation areas, especially on income and investment taxes, and is aimed at boosting trade and investment between the two countries.

Murdani Says Military Personnel To Increase

BK0611091990 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0000 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Indonesia will increase the number of its Armed Forces personnel to 500,000 while vowing to maintain small and professional Armed Forces. Defense and Security Minister L.B. Murdani said that the number of Armed Forces personnel would be increased because the present number was too small in proportion to Indonesia's population. He noted that the Armed Forces now had only 480,000 personnel, including policemen or 0.15 percent of the total population, while Armed Forces personnel of neighboring countries represented 0.3 percent of their population. The defense and security minister added that Indonesia's defense and security budget was just two percent of the country's gross national product, while those of other countries reached three percent of their GNP.

Laos

Article Supports Arrest of 'Bad Elements'

BK0611113290 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 5 Nov 90

[PASASON Article: "Arrest of National Law Breakers by Police Is Reasonable"]

[Text] In early October, the police arrested a number of bad elements, including Thongsouk Saisangkhi, former deputy minister of science and technology, Latsami Khamphoui, once deputy minister of agriculture and forestry, and Feng, former member of the Justice Ministry. The three persons committed propaganda against the party and state policies and conducted activities aimed at overthrowing the regime and creating political disturbances in Vientiane capital. Empowered by Article 51 of the Criminal Law, the police authorities arrested them so as to defend internal political normal and social peace and order. They will be interrogated and tried according to the country's law. The action taken by the authorities is therefore reasonable and consistent with the country's law.

As everyone knows, the party and government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] have always applied fair and broad-minded policies toward every citizen. The three persons joined the revolution in the mid-period of the war against the United States. The party recognized that they, at that time, worked energetically and had registered a number of achievements contributing to the revolution. Therefore, during the past four to five years, they were appointed by the party and state to the posts of minister and deputy head of an office. In fact, they had received highly honored treatments.

The government, however, will not allow anyone, regardless of the position he has been appointed to, to violate the interest of the country and people and the country's law. Morever, their acts also served the design of the reactionaries attempting to sabotage the LPDR, an achievement the Lao people scored through their great sacrifice, thus violating the law and affecting internal security, solidarity, and unity among the people in the country that the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the LPDR government have strived for during the past several years.

Therefore, the arrest of the wrongdoers by the police is reasonable and consistent wih the national law, and this action is a common practice for every state to protect the national order and the efficiency of the law safeguarding the interests of the revolution and people.

Chatchai Discusses Border, Cambodia With Leaders

BK0211105690 Vientiane KPL in English 0918 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 2 (KPL)—The prime minister of Thailand, General Chatchai Chunhawan, and his wife, Lady Bunruan, together with his entourage, arrived here today morning by a special plane for attending the annual Buddhist ceremony held at That Louang Stupa, whose celebration festival is ending tonight.

The visit was made at the invitation of the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], Kaysone Phomvihan.

Gen Chatchai Chunhawan and his party consisting of 23 members were welcomed at the Vattai Airport by General Sisavat Keobounphan, mayor of Vientiane municipality; ministers; and many senior Lao officials.

Thai Ambassador to Laos Nikhom Tantemsap was also on hand at the airport.

Gen Chatchai Chunhawan was the first Thai prime minister in recent years who attended That Louang Stupa festival.

Gen Chatchai Chunhawan on this occasion made a contribution of 100,000 baht (Thai currency) for the renovation of the That Louang Stupa.

A "Basi" ceremony, a typical traditional service of greetings the Lao people observe since their ancestral time, was also arranged for the Thai prime minister and his wife.

The prime ministers of Laos and Thailand then had a personal talk at the Mekong Retaurant. The two personalities made an assessment on the implementation of the joint communique which already bears fruit reflected in more mutual exchanges of visits of the people of two countries as well as in the expanded economic cooperation between them and the joint effort in avoiding border conflicts.

They unanimously agreed that the two sides needed to inmediately solve the remaining border problem aimed at improving the aged-old neighbourly relationship between the two countries.

The two personalities also discussed their commitment to solving the Cambodian issue, expressing their hope that a solution to this issue would be achieved early through the exercise of the self-determination by the Cambodian people themselves.

At noon, Gen Chatchai Chunhawan and his party were given a luncheon by Gen Sisavat Keobounphan. Also taking part in the luncheon were Chairman of the Council of Ministers Kaysone Phomvihan; CM [Council of Ministers] Vice Chairman Sali Vongkhamsao who is also minister of economy, planning, and finance; ministers and deputy ministers; and senior officials.

The celebration of That Louang (great stupa) containing Lord Buddha's relics takes place on the full moon day of the 12th month of the Lao lunar calendar. This religious event is attended by representatives of Buddhist monks from all parts of the country. The last day of That Louang festival is marked with an offering of food to monks at dawn and a sermon by monks. At nightfall, there is a candle-light and waxed castle procession accompanied by fireworks.

Kaysone Phomvihan and his wife went to Nakhon Phanom Province of Thailand to participate in the annual festival of Phra That Phanom Stupa in February 1989 in response to the invitation of the Thai prime minister. That Phanom, on the right bank of the Mekong [river], is one of the most revered stupas for Buddhists of both sides of the river.

The Thai prime minister, Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, and his entourage left here at 1500 [0800 GMT]. Gen Sisavat Keobounphan and other senior Lao officials saw them off at the airport.

'Satisfied' With Efforts

BK0311154490 Vientiane KPL in English 0853 GMT 3 Nov 90

["Lao, Thai Neighbourly Relationship Promoted One More Step"—KPL headline]

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 3 (OANA-KPL)—The visit to Vientiane yesterday by Thailand's Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan was another manifestation that the relationship of good-neighbourliness between Laos and Thailand was real, said Laos' Acting President Phoumi Vongvichit and the Thai prime minister himself during their meeting here yesteday.

General Chatichai Chunhawan visited Vientiane yesterday at the invitation of Laos' chairman of the Council of Ministers Kaysone Phomvihan to attend the annual That Louang Stupa celebration, an important event for Buddhist followers.

The Thai prime minister told the Lao acting president of his personal talk with the Lao CM [Council of Ministers] Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan on the bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries, saying that there were currently about 600 Thai business companies registered to trade with Laos and that the joint construction of the Mekong Bridge whose survey and design were to be completed in late this month would start in late next year.

In addition, Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan told the Lao acting president that in his view whenever the Cambodian issue was solved, the situation at the borders between Thailand and Cambodia and between Thailand and Laos would be more favourable for the people in these countries to visit each other.

Phoumi Vongvichit was pleased at hearing this good news voicing that if the next negotiation in Thailand on the Cambodian issue as held earlier in Paris, Jakarta and Bangkok, was successful, peace would exist in South-East Asia, thus creating an opportunity for each country to happily proceed its development.

The two personalities were satisfied with the current efforts of promotion of neighbourly ties between Laos and Thailand. The Thai prime minister on the occasion invited the Lao acting president to visit Thailand. The invitation was accepted in principle, whereas the visit schedule will be determined at a later date.

Improvement of Ties Hailed

BK0411102890 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 3 Nov 90

[PASASON Feature: "Lao-Thai Relations Are Heading Toward Bright Prospects"]

[Text] It is generally known that Laos and Thailand have maintained intimate ties since time immemorial and share similiarities in history, geographic location, religion, language, and culture. These have provided the basis for the peoples of the two countries to keep regular contact and develop common traditions which are passed on to their younger generations. One of them is the annual Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao boat races that are alternately hosted at the end of Buddhist Lent. This year's race was hosted by the Thai side on 7 October.

The prospects of Lao-Thai relations have brightened following the signing of the joint communique dated 25 November 1988 by His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and His Excellency General Chatchai Chunhawan, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand. Further expansion of the time-honored relations, cooperation, and brotherly friendship between the peoples of the two countries are the results of the signing of the joint communique, which emphasizes the development of the two countries and promotion of the well-being of the Lao and Thai people through cooperation between the governments and private sector in economy, science, technology, education, and exchange of visits at different levels on the basis of good understanding, mutual trust and assistance, brotherly neighborliness, equality, and common interest. Guided by the contents of the communique, Lao-Thai relations has ushered in a new era with many clear improvements, especially in trade cooperation in line with His Excellency General Chatchai Chunhawan's policy of transforming Indochina from battlefield into a marketplace.

At the same time, cooperation in culture, arts, and technology is expanding and improving every passing day, while Lao and Thai people living along the common border continue to trade and visit one another regularly. The promotion of traditional brotherly neighborliness, especially during the past few years, also conforms to the requirements of the new era in the region and the aspirations of the Lao and Thai people, as it serves their genuine interest. Inspired by the tangible improvement of relations between the Lao and Thai people, the Lao people have always wanted to defend and strengthen the brotherly neighborliness with the Thai people on the basis of equality, mutual respect, mutual cooperation in economic and cultural development, and common interest so both peoples will be able to live in happiness and peace forever. This is in line with the vow made by His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihan and His Excellency General Chatchai Chunhawan at Phra That Phanom Pagoda during the worship fair on 17 February 1989. The vow says: We will do our utmost to further strengthen the new and pure relations between Laos and Thailand. May the divine power of Phra That Phanom Pagoda protect and strengthen the solidarity and affection between the Lao and Thai people so no force can undermine it.

The participation in the worship fair of That Louang Temple by His Excellency General Chatchai Chunhawan is proof of brighter prospects for Lao-Thai relations.

Foreign Ministry Delegation Visits Thailand

BK0511140290 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] At the invitation of the Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of Thailand, Souban Salitthilat, deputy minister of foreign affairs, left Vientiane on the afternoon of 5 November for an official visit to Thailand on 6 and 7 November.

On the same day, Alounkeo Kittikhoun, deputy head of the International Organizations Department of the Foreign Ministry and head of the joint Lao-Thai border technical committee, also led a delegation to Thailand to resume the consultative meeting with the Thai counterpart to settle the border problem in the area between Boten District of Sayaboury Province and Chattrakan District of Phitsanuloke Province. The meeting of joint border technical committee will be held in Bangkok on 6 and 7 November as agreed upon during the meeting held in Vientiane from 4 to 6 January.

Seeing the delegations off at the airport were Deputy Foreign Minister Soulivong Phasitthidet and a number of high-level cadres of the Foreign Ministry. Also present at the airport was Nikhom Tantemsap, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Laos.

Thai Princess Aids Vientiane Hospital

BK0611124690 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 6 (KPL)—Five medical personnel of the Vientiane Municipal Hospital were recently sent for a short training in the Chulalongkon Hospital of Bangkok, Thailand.

The training was organised for them according to an aid project sponsored by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon.

Previously, the Vientiane Municipal Hospital received a donation of medical equipment from Thailand, presented by Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon herself.

Education Cooperation Accord Signed With SRV

BK0311044290 Vientiane KPL in English 0936 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 2 (KPL)—Sali Vongkhamsao, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers [CM], minister of economy, planning, and finance, received here on October 31, an educational delegation of Vietnam, led by its education and vocational formation [as received] deputy minister, Pham Minh Hac.

The CM vice chairman, on the occasion, discussed with his Vietnamese guest the past and immediate mutual cooperation and assistance in socioeconomic development between Laos and Vietnam, in the light of the restructuring effort conducted in each country.

On the same day in the afternoon, the Vietnamese deputy minister of education and vocational formation signed with his Lao counterpart, Deputy Minister of Education and Sports Phimmason, a minute of their meeting and an agreement on cooperation for 1991 between the two Ministries of Education. The agreement (?pointed out that) the sides have agreed to help each other in cadre training: 50 Lao cadres to study in Vietnam and 10 Vietnamese cadres to study Lao language and literature at the Vientiane Teachers' Training College. Also agreed upon is the regular exchange of data and information on science and education.

Phoumi Vongvichit Receives Japanese Delegation

BK0511142890 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 5 (KPL)—The acting president of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] Phoumi Vongvichit received here on November 3 a visiting delegation of the Japanese-Lao Friendship Association led by its President M. Takeda.

The acting president on the occasion appreciated the visit of the delegation which he hoped would introduce the good will and friendship of the Lao people to the Japanese people for the developed friendly relationship and cooperation between the two countries.

Laos and Japan established the friendship association with one another in 1988 as their bilateral relations and economic cooperation have been increasingly expanded.

The president of the Lao-Japanese Friendship Association is Mr. Soulivong Dalavong, acting minister of industry and handicraft.

Philippines

AFP Says U.S. National Kidnapped by Rebels

HK0611141190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1326 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Manila, Nov 6 (AFP)—A U.S. national has been kidnapped by suspected communist insurgents in the northern Philippines, a U.S. Embassy spokesman said here Tuesday. Embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager said the man had been taken off a commuter mini-bus by armed men presumed to be communist guerrillas in the northern town of Aparri, Cagayan province, on October 20.

Mr. Schrager would not name the American seized but he added that the embassy was trying to verify reports that he was a protestant missionary. He said the embassy learned about the kidnapping from some people in the area a few days ago and had informed the local military. Paramilitary spokesman would not confirm the report.

Mr. Schrager said he did not believe the abduction was linked to the start of talks here Thursday on the future of U.S. military bases in the Philippines. The communist guerrillas oppose the presence of the U.S. bases and are widely believed to be planning attacks on Americans prior to the negotiations.

An American Peace Corps volunteer was kidnapped by communist insurgents in the central island of Negros in June but freed him a few weeks later.

Death Threats to U.S., Philippine Panel Members

HK0611145290 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The Philippines decided it will insist on operational control over Clark Air Base next year. This was stressed by Philippine bases panel head Alfredo Bengzon regarding the resumption of the talks on Thursday. Bengzon stated the Philippines will not be influenced by any pressure by the United States to retain their bases here.

Meanwhile, Defense Under Secretary Feliciano Gacis stated there are again death threats not only for the Americans but also for the Philippine bases panel members.

Third Round of U.S. Bases Talks Set for 7 Nov

HK0511111690 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 5 Nov 90

[By Rey Arquiza]

[Text] It is now definite that the third round of talks regarding the U.S. bases in the country will be held this Wednesday. It is possible that an afternoon session will be held on Wednesday and will continue Thursday and Friday. The press center will be reactivated on Wednesday morning at the Department of Foreign Affairs. It was learned that U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt will throw a reception at his residence for special negotiator Richard Armitage on Wednesday night.

Earlier, U.S. Embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager said the negotiation on the bases will be brief but tense. He cannot say that the talks will result in a draft treaty of cooperation, friendship, and security.

The Philippines announced it will allow the U.S. continued access to its facilities in Clark under a commercial arrangement after it formally notifies the U.S. it wants to take full operational control of Clark Air Base after the U.S. Military Bases Agreement expires in 1991.

Aquino Hopes New Agreement Signed During Talks

HK0611124890 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon, who is also a member of the Philippine panel on bases talks, today announced reported pressures by U.S. Government officials in an effort to retain their military bases in the country. In a news conference this morning, Secretary Bengzon also stated the government's position on the resumption of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. bases talks on Thursday [day as heard]. During the talks, the Philippine panel will take a firm stand on its objective to reduce dependence on the United States. He also said the government will insist on taking full control of Clark Air Base on 19 September 1991. Bengzon warned that should the government fail to adhere to its goal, he would resign as chairman of the Philippine panel. He warned of the strong forces wishing to retain the military bases in the country. [passage indistinct]

Meanwhile, President Aquino expressed the hope for the drafting of a new agreement focused not only on security but on trade and cooperation which may lead to an equal regard for each side—the Philippines and the United States.

The talks are scheduled for Thursday at the Central Bank building in Manila. The Philippine panel will be headed by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus while the American panel will be headed by special negotiator Richard Armitage.

In this connection, Mabalacat Town Mayor Wilfredo Halili stated the towns around Clark Air Base have been experiencing slow business even before the Americans' departure. Halili said when the bases finally leave, it might put a halt to businesses in the towns of Mabalacat, Angeles City, and towns close to Subic Base, Zambales.

Philippine Nurses Leaving Kuwait for Baghdad

HK0211092990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration [OWWA] has reported that Philippine nurses and medical workers are leaving their jobs at Kuwaiti hospitals this week. In his message to OWWA administrator Anatacio Maronilla, OWWA welfare administrator Abdul Atif Maldiza said that Philippine nurses in Mubarak, Adan, and Al-Hara hospitals had sent a message they would be proceeding to Baghdad this week. Maldiza said that there are still some 1,000 Filipinos in Kuwait who have registered at the Philippine Embassy in the said occupied territory.

Iraq Reportedly Recruiting Medical Personnel

HK0611091990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 6 Nov 90

[By Rey Arquiza]

[Text] It was learned today that Iraqi nationals in the country are recruiting Philippine nurses and medical technicians for their hospitals in Iraq, in preparation for a possible eruption of war in the Middle East.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said that based on intelligence reports she had received, Iraqi nationals here are recruiting Filipinos to fill the shortage of medical staff in their hospitals. Commissioner Domingo announced that two Iraqi nationals identified as Mammud Amman Marsyuk and Assad Assim were arrested by the Commission on Immigration and Deportation, for recruiting nurses and medical technologists without work permits. Marsyuk and Assim are here as students but were persuaded by unidentified Iraqi officials to recruit Filipinos to work in their hospitals in Iraq. The two arrested Iraqi nationals were renting a room in LNS [expansion unknown] building in Roxas Boulevard where they were interviewing applicants to be taken to Iraq. According to Commissioner Domingo, their arrest indicates that there may still be some other Iraqi nationals recruiting Filipinos to work in Iraq.

Exiled Kuwaiti Official To Visit Manila 19 Nov

HK0611144890 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] An exiled official of Kuwait will visit the Philippines. Ambassador (Ahmad Fadh Alfadh) will seek the support of the Philippines in enforcing the United Nations sanctions against Iraq. (Fadh) will arrive in Manila on 19 November. He is asking for adequate security because of the many Arab and Palestinian students in the country.

Japanese Grant To Fund Communications Project

HK0611043390 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 6 Nov 90 p 2

[By Cynthia H. Evidente]

[Text] A 378-million-yen technical grant from the Japanese government has been made available for government telecommunications projects.

BUSINESS WORLD learned yesterday that the funding arrangement was finalized in Washington D.C. in a memorandum of understanding signed October 2, 1990 between the World Bank and Philippine officials.

According to inside sources, the grant, roughly worth $2.9 million at current rate of the yen to the dollar, will be used to set up a consultancy body to assist the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) in privatizing current telecoms projects.

These include the Regional Telecommunications Development Program (RTDP) I and II (Phase B) and the National Telephone Program [NTP] Tranches 1-1, 1-2 and 1-3. The RTDP covers Regions I and II while the NTP series will cover Regions III to XII.

Likewise, part of the grant will be made available for current moves to strengthen the National Telecommunications Commission and manpower development.

At present, the RTDP I and II, or Phase B is already 50% complete, with the installation of telephone facilities in the Pangasinan area. Phase B is expected to be finished by 1991.

NTP Tranche 1-1, which is to install 59,950 lines in Regions III, IV and V, is ongoing with several telecoms firms set to bid for the facilities to be set up by the government.

Actual implementation of NTP 1-2 is covered by the 16th OECF [expansion not known] loan with foreign funding amounting to $130.1 million and a local funding of P1.5 billion.

NTP tranche 1-2 for Regions, VI, VII and VIII is covered under a French loan amounting to P53.5 million. The local counterpart fund amounts to P1.2 million.

Engineering

The detailed engineering and pilot project for NTP 1-2 is expected to be completed by December 1991.

However, the implementation of NTP 1-3 has suffered some delays.

Although the project, which is to install 43,900 digital lines in Regions IX to XII, should have begun last July, it did not because the Italian government did not reconfirm its $74.4-million loan last October.

NTP 1-3 is targeted to be finished in 18 months or by the first quarter of 1993.

Privatization

Earlier, Undersecretary for Telecommunications Josefina Lichauco said the DOTC will pursue the privatization of these projects.

However, actual mechanics for the divestment of government holdings on these telecoms facilities will still have to be worked out.

So far, three private telecoms firms have shown interest in the privatization moves of government. These are the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. and the Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Corp.

The Japanese technical grant was negotiated in behalf of the Philippine Government by the World Bank, which will manage the funds for the country.

Aquino Urges Preparation for Next Labor Strike

HK0311014590 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] President Corazon Aquino directed government agencies to prepare for militant labor's threatened strike next week. She issued the order as she met with Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa, Transport and Communication Secretary Oscar Orbos, and other Cabinet members in Malacanang.

Meanwhile, Secretary Ramos said the Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police will again be deployed to ascertain the security of public vechicles on Monday. He assured that the military is better prepared now compared to the last nationwide strike.

Warns Militant Labor Groups

HK0511015790 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] President Aquino last night ordered the Labor Department to draft an agenda for her talks with organized labor. The president stood firm on her decision to leave the wage hike issue to the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board as stipulated by the law. At the same time, President Aquino warned militant labor groups against launching violence and urban terrorism to force the government to grant their demand for a pay rise. According to the president, the government will never yield to blackmail or any threat of another violent strike.

28 Servicemen Involved in Foiled Coup Released

HK0611131090 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Report by Eloi Aquino from Camp Aguinaldo]

[Text] The leadership of the Philippine Navy has released 28 Marine personnel involved in the foiled December coup. The soldiers, a majority of whom were corporals, were first detained at the detention center at Sangley Point, Cavite and were later transferred to the Fort Bonifacio detention center. Most of the soldiers were members of the 4th Marine Batallion Landing Team, while others came fronm the Headquarters Batallion and First Batallion. The soldiers were released after they were acquitted by the Naval Inspector-General and were learned to have followed the orders of their superior officers.

At the same time, Philippine Marines Chief of Staff Colonel Ponciano Millena received the released Philippine Marine corporals. Colonel Millena told the soldiers they should fulfill their duties as defenders of the citizenry. The released soldiers will be demoted and [word indistinct] under Articles of War No 105 before they are stationed to areas which will be assigned to them, while the others are to face a court martial. Colonel Millena also said only the interest of the Marines should prevail and the chain of command must always be followed.

[Begin Millena recording in English] We are happy to have you back here. I think you have learned certain lessons from that incident, that December incident. We have instituted certain, or took certain, measures such as our new battle cry which we term (Non quam de terum) means, never again. Never again shall we allow ourselves to be fooled by these people with political motivation or political interests. Never again shall we allow ourselves or any segment of this organization to go astray. I hope we have impressed to you what is really the meaning of soldiery, the meaning of being Marines. We are supposed to be true, dedicated to the Constitution, to the flag, and to the defense of the Republic. [end recording]

1992 Poll Deferment Contingency Being Considered

HK0611065790 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The government is studying the possibility of moving the 1992 elections in case war in the Middle East breaks out. At a news conference yesterday, President Aquino said that the poll deferment plan was one of the contingency measures tackled by the National Security Council last 25 October as an answer to the possible effects of impending war in the Middle East.

Prior to this, Senate President Jovito Salonga had mentioned the possible change in schedule for presidential elections in May 1992 depending on the unrest in the Middle East. According to President Aquino, Salonga remembers the suspension of all elections during World War II.

At the same time, President Aquino moved the synchronized elections of local and national governments which governors and mayors had been proposing.

President Aquino To Leave for Tokyo 11 Nov

HK0611085590 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] President Aquino is definitely leaving for Tokyo, Japan on Sunday, 11 November. Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa have promised the president that they would maintain peace in the country in the wake of threats by several militant labor unions to launch another welgang bayan [national strike] in addition to threats from rightist groups.

President Aquino will be going to Japan to attend the coronation of Prince Akihito as Japanese Emperor. During her visit she is slated to hold negotiations for a $500-million loan which the country will use to respond to the crisis brought about by the unrest in the Middle East, and a $300-million loan for the rehabilitation of six provinces in Northern Luzon that were severely damaged during the last earthquake.

Aquino Issues More Energy-Saving Measures

HK0211093390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 2 Nov 90

[By Dick Sinchongco, Unit No. 6]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has issued Executive Order [EO] 433 ordering the immediate implementation of additional energy conservation measures to compliment the mandated 10 percent reduction in petroleum and fuel supplies. Among the measures contained in the executive order are the reduction by 15 and 10 percent in electric and fuel consumption by all departments, agencies, offices, [preceding two words in English] government-owned or -controlled corporations, local government units, and government instrumentalities [preceding two words in English]. So, all government offices have been ordered under the executive order to reduce by 15 percent their electric consumption and a 10 percent reduction in fuel consumption. Aside from this, airconditioning units in all government offices will be switched on only at the opening of office hours or at eight o'clock in the morning and must be switched off an hour before the close of the working day. In addition, the private sector will also be persuaded to develop or enforce similar energy conservation measures.

The EO also urges all local government units to draft the needed ordinances to ensure compliance with the order, which will affect operations by movie theaters, department stores, supermarkets, neon lights, and other signs using electricity.

The president also ordered the Department of Transportation and Communication [DOTC] to speed up the adoption and enforcement of reasonable measures that will prohibit the use of motor vehicles during peak hours and on Sundays and legal holidays or on other streets in Manila.

The EO also requests the Energy Regulatory Board to consider implementing measures to restrict the operating hours of petroleum products' retail outlets or gasoline stations.

The Office of Energy Affairs is also directed to require the industrial, commercial, and transport establishments, which are consuming more than one million fuel liters per year, to submit their energy conservation programs as well as their target for a 10 and 15 percent reduction in fuel and electricity consumption.

President Aquino on Possible Cabinet Revamp

HK0611080790 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] President Aquino once more said that she may reshuffle her cabinet if the need arises. According to the president, she will have no second thoughts about replacing any cabinet member if the person is found to be ineffective. However, the president expressed reservations over the suggested reinstatement to the cabinet of former Agrarian Reform Secretary Miriam Defensor-Santiago and former NEDA [National Economic Development Authority] Director General Solita Monsod. This was the president's reaction to Senator Ernesto Maceda's suggestion that the return of the two should be reconsidered. The president stressed that this suggestion was solely Maceda's opinion, and so she also had the right to reserve her comments on the senator's recommendation.

Aquino Urges Local Autonomy Code Ratification

HK0611085790 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] President Aquino called on the Senate and Congress for the immediate ratification of the Local Autonomy Code and the proposed bill for the creation of the Philippine National Police. The president made the call during the opening of Congress after several days recess.

In her regular news conference at Malacanang, the president said that Congress had promised her that the Local Autonomy Code would be passed before year-end. In relation to this, Mrs. Aquino explained that decentralization was for the good of the whole country.

Comments on Mindanao Autonomous Region Reported

Aquino Gives Speech on Region

HK0611061390 Quezon City Radyo Ng Bayan in Tagalog 0243 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Speech by President Corazon Aquino at the LTP (expansion unknown) Complex, Cotabato City, on the occasion of the inauguration of the Muslim Mindanao Autonomous Region—live in English; italicized portions in Tagalog]

[Text] Governor Zaccharia Candao, Senate President Jovito Salonga, Speaker Ramon Mitra, Secretary Raul Manglapus, Speaker Abubakar, Vice Governor Loong, Speaker Pro Tempore Vernan, Your Excellencies of the diplomatic corps, distinguished members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the governors of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi, the honorable members of the regional assemblies, *my dear countrymen,* Asala Mulaikung [Islamic greeting].

Today we are witnesses to history in this inauguration of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao [ARMM]. We establish for the first time in our country's history a truly political region. [Speech interrupted for several minutes by shouting. Announcer states that shouting comes from students holding black and green banners, and that Secretary Ramos is trying to quieten them.] *It is true that there is democracy in our country. [applause] A majority of you would like to have an autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao. For a few, however, let us just leave them to shout what they want, but this can never be repeated.* [applause] This is radically different from the administrative regions we have in other parts of the country. For nowhere is there a regional governor other than here in the autonomous region. Nowhere is there a regional assembly tasked with enacting regional laws other than here in the autonomous region. Nowhere are there the broad fiscal powers granted a local government that are invested in a regional government by the Organic Act.

On December 23 1976 the previous regime signed the Tripoli Agreement, which was to be further threshed out in a final agreement to be signed in Manila. The Tripoli Agreement recognized adherence to constitutional processes for the implementation of the entire agreement. Despite the Tripoli Agreement there was no serious effort by the previous regime to address legitimate Muslim grievances. Following our EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] revolution in 1986, it was the policy of this government to accommodate the just aspirations of the Filipino Muslims for real and meaningful autonomy, provided that it is done within the framework of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the republic. It was this administration that initiated the Jeddah accord, signed on January 3 1987, to continue discussion of the proposal for the grant of full autonomy subject to democratic processes. In February 1987 our Constitution was ratified. The Constitution mandated Congress to enact an organic act that shall define the basic structure of government for this region. Among other things, the organic act wants to provide [words indistinct] to handle personal, family, and property laws. The following year, in this same venue, I inaugurated the Mindanao Regional Consultative Commission [MRCC], which was tasked to draft the organic act to be submitted to Congress. The MRCC, composed of 51 commissioners, one half of whom were Philippine Muslims, included five former MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front] commanders and one MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front] commander. On June 8 1989 both houses of Congress approved Republic Act 6734, providing for the organic act for the autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao, and on August 1 1989 I signed that republic act into law.

Thereafter a plebiscite was conducted in the 13 provinces, of which four voted favorably to join the ARMM. This year, in February, the first regional election was held, and today we gather in this inauguration to honor the first duly elected autonomous regional government, headed by our Regional Governor the Honorable Zaccharia A. Candao. [applause] We committed to establish a regional government in fact and not just in name. We shall see to it that in compliance with the Constitution and Republic Act 6734, the requisite powers and resources are vested in it. The oversight committee has been tasked with supervising the transfer of these powers, functions, and offices to the regional government. This committee is chaired by the executive secretary and has the secretary of budget and management and the director general of NEDA [National Economic Development Authority] as members, together with the regional governor and the speaker of the regional assembly, and the honorable Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr and Mamintal Tamano, and the honorable Congressmen (Himid Matalam) of Maguindanao and (Arden Ani) of Sulu.

As recommended by the oversight committee, I have recently signed four executive orders. In Executive Order 425 I have ordered the transfer of offices within the arm [as heard] of the following departments to the regional government: Local Government, Environment and Natural Resources, Labor and Employment, Social Welfare and Development, Tourism, and Science and Technology.

In addition, the regional governor shall assume supervisory powers over all local government units, a function previously exercised by the secretary of local governments. In Executive Order 426 I have ordered the transfer of the district engineering offices and area equipment services of the DPWH [Department of Public Works and Highways] in the four provinces of ARMM to the regional government. With this transfer the regional government shall assume responsibility of some 312-million-pesos-worth of locally funded projects. In Executive Order 427 I have directed the transfer of barter trade administration from the Southern Philippines Development Authority to the autonomous regional government. And in Executive Order [applause] 428 I have authorized the provision for an annual assistance from the national government of 615 million pesos [applause]. This amount shall be included in the national budget and shall be provided with the sole condition that it be appropriated through a regional public works act to be passed by the regional assembly. This annual assistance shall commence in 1991 and shall continue for a period of five years.

Over the next three to four months, the oversight committee shall deliberate on and study the manner and schedule of transfer of a number of other national line departments, including Trade and Industry, Education, Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, and Health. Furthermore, the committee shall deliberate on other equally important areas of concern and determine the relationship between the national and regional government in these areas: foreign investments, official development assistance, transportation and communications, and regional police. The ARMM must be economically viable as a region if the survival of its autonomous government is to be ensured. For this reason it is important that its economic base grows. Investors must be attracted, infrastructure must be developed. Accordingly we must see to it that investments and official development assistance [ODA] flow to the region. The ARMM is entitled to a share of the ODA extended by the national government, even as we are working out the manner by which the regional government may sort its own investments and ODA. We shall assist the regional government in drawing up its medium-term economic development plan and its long-term investment program. We shall assist the regional government in setting up a functional and responsive bureaucracy. We shall proudly present the ARMM to the international Islamic community as a singular achievement of our sovereign people. Autonomy must be viewed as a partnership, in the truest sense of the word, between national and regional governments. It must be the peaceful settlement of the long-standing problem with our Muslim brothers. But we also must make it clear that there are limitations to the grant of autonomy. One, the autonomy granted is within the framework of the Constitution and recognizes the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the republic. This shall never be compromised. Two, autonomy shall be, where applicable, subject to national laws, even as we recognize that regional laws may cover regional concerns. Republic Act 6734, or the organic act, shall serve as the region's charter, on the basis of which we are devolving the powers and functions from the national to the regional government.

In closing, let me send out a message to all Filipinos, to all Mindanaoans, and to all Muslims, Christians, and [word indistinct] of the ARMM. We are all Filipinos, regardless of culture or creed. What is important is that we work for true democracy in peaceful and non-violent ways. We welcome the ARMM as the newest region in our republic, and we look to the regional government as a beacon to bring leadership to this region. A leadership for peace, and a leadership for development. In devolving substantial powers to the autonomous region, the national government does not abdicate its responsiblity nor abandon its concern for the citizens within its boundaries. I want to reassure the leaders and the people of the autonomous region that they can always count on my support. [applause] I want to see the autonomous region succeed, and I am determined that it will succeed. [applause] But the primary responsibility for the success of the autonomous region must now rest on the people and the leaders of the autonomous region themselves. *Thank you very much and good morning to all of you.*

Editorial Views Autonomous Region

HK0611045390 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 6 Nov 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Making Regional Autonomy Work"]

[Text] Today, the Aquino government inaugurates the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The first autonomous region ever in the country was created by an act of Congress, pursuant to the 1987 Constitution's mandate that autonomous regions for the indigenous peoples of Muslim Mindanao and the Cordillera be established.

In their collective wisdom, the drafters of the Constitution saw the granting of self-rule as a means to redress the injustice experienced by the country's indigenous peoples at the hands of a basically Christian and Manila-based central government. For example, resource-rich Mindanao, with its mineral deposits, forestry products, fishing grounds and abundant agriculture, continues to be poor and underdeveloped, sharing only 22.9% of the national budget. In contrast, Luzon obtains over a 50% share.

The plebiscite on the acceptability of the Organic Act was considered only a partial success in Mindanao where, out of 13 provinces and four cities included by the law, only the four Muslim provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Tawi-Tawi and Sulu voted for autonomy. In the Cordillera, however, the plebiscite was a disaster, with all but one of the five provinces and one city rejecting the Organic Act.

The ARMM, which will be launched by President Aquino in Cotabato City today, is therefore the first real test of whether the much-debated and aspired-for idea of decentralization and autonomy can work in this country. What government must prove out-right is that the people of the ARMM are better off afer autonomy than they were before it.

Properly administered, the ARMM should bring about definite improvements in its member provinces, which are among the poorest in the land. For one, it calls for the creation of a regional government empowered to plan and oversee a comprehensive regional development program. This government has been in place since February when the voters of the four provinces elected their governor, vice governor and assemblymen in relatively peaceful polls.

The act allows the regional government to retain 60% of its tax collections. Outside of this, the region will receive a regular annual allotment from the central government for its infrastructure needs.

In recognition of the unique mix of cultures and religions in the ARMM, the organic act provides for the codification of Islamic and tribal laws, and the establishment of court systems that address the needs of the tribal, Muslim and non-Muslim litigants.

What all this means is, the ARMM will be running most aspects of life in the region, with the exception of foreign policy and national defense, functions which belong to the national government. It will also have more access to developmental resources.

The ARMM will not be without problems. First, it is composed of very poor provinces, with very limited transport and communications facilities. And secondly, the provinces included in the region are not contiguous, making integrated and comprehensive development difficult to plan and administer.

On the other hand, with the ARMM in place, poverty and the other root causes of the discontent in the region can now be addressed more closely and directly from the local level. The challenge to both the government of Regional Governor Zacaria Candao and to the central government is to make autonomy work in Muslim Mindano. On its success hinges the future of the initiatives for decentralization and local autonomy.

Marcos Crony Surrenders P1.2 Billion in Assets

HK0611044390 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 6 Nov 90 pp 1, 6

[By Julie Javellana]

[Text] Former Ambassador Roberto S. Benedicto, erstwhile Marcos crony, is turning over P [peso] 1.2 billion of cash and assets to the Philippine government in exchange for immunity from civil and criminal suits.

The formalization of the compromise agreement between the government and Benedicto was announced yesterday by Commissioner Arthur Defensor of the Philippine Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

PCGG Chairman David Castro and Benedicto signed the agreement in Singapore last Nov. 3 after two years of negotiation.

The former ambassador under the admiistration of President Marcos agreed to turn over to the government the following assets:

—Two television stations, namely, the Intercontinental Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) and Radio Philippines Network (RPN).

—Fifty-one percent of his holdings in Eastern Telecommunications Philippines, Inc. (ETPI).

—13.5 billion shares in Oriental Petroleum Mining Corp. (OPMC), valued at current market prices at P450 million.

—$16 million from Swiss bank accounts in Zurich and Geneva in Switzerland.

—$15 million deposits in the California Overseas Bank.

—Three haciendas in Negros Occidental.

—Still unnamed 37 companies.

In exchange, the government agreed to:

—Grant Benedicto immunity from criminal and civil prosecution. He is currently the main defendant in three civil cases filed by the PCGG before the Sandiganbayan [Anti-Graft Court];

—Allow reissuance of passports to Benedicto and his wife, Julita, and daughter, Francisca (Kitchie).

—Retain his shareholdings and interests in some Philippine corporations, including those in the Traders Royal Bank and the Riviera Hotel Development Corp., which Benedicto acquired through inheritance.

—Lift sequestraton of his assets.

Caparas said the former ambassador and sugar magnate was offering his assets and cash as a form of "restitution."

"Because he wants to come home," Caparas said, "he entered the compromise agreement. Noon pa man layunin niyang magkaroon na ng katiwasayan na ang kanyang buhay [It has long been his goal to attain a tranquil life]."

With the compromise agreement, Benedicto was assured of dismissal of all the civil cases against him and a stop to all existing preliminary investigations on his supposed involvement with the Marcos couple.

Last may, Benedicto handed over his ownership of $15 million in the California Overseas Bank as a condition to being excluded as a defendant in the criminal racketeering case filed against former first lady Imelda Marcos in the United States.

Five Killed in Military Operations in Mindanao

HK0511032990 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 5 Nov 90 p 21

[Text] Four Muslim Rebels were killed and two were captured while three New People's Army (NPA) terrorists were apprehended and one was killed and four high-powered and one low-powered firearms were recovered during security operations conducted by the military from November 1-3, according to reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

In Basilan, a joint detachment of Philippine Constabulary/Integrated National Police/CAFGU [Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit] situated in barangay Buhi, Lubong, Tipo-Tipo was harassed by some 200 MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front] lost command led by Commander Bashir Limbangan. A fierce firefight lasted for about 30 minutes, resulting in the killing of four MNLF rebels and the wounding of two CHDF [Civilian Home Defense Force] members.

In Zamboanga del Sur, a team of headquarters and headquarters company, 4th infantry battalion under Army Sgt. [Sergeant] Cabangbang while conducting sea patrol encountered about seven MNLF lost command rebels on board a pumpboat in Malubong Bay, Dinas.

The government forces engaged the rebels in a running gunfight for about fifteen minutes resulting in the capture of two MNLF terrorists identified as Nasser Maulana alias Ka [Comrade] Pau and Abdula Dantong and the recovery of one M-79 grenade launcher and one garand rifle.

In Cagayan, operating elements of 65th infantry battalion led by army Lieutenant Cera apprehended an NPA terrorist identified only as Cacholo in barangay San Pedro, Lasam. The troops confiscated one carbine with ammunition.

Four Rebels Killed in Agusan del Sur Clash

HK0511033190 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 5 Nov 90 pp 1, 23

[By Mike Crismundo]

[Text] Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur—Government forces killed at least four New People's Army (NPA) rebels and wounded 10 others in a fierce gun battle last Saturday afternoon at barangay Cabawan, Rosario town.

Reports said that the Constabulary troops led by Lt. Col. Bartolome V. Baluyot, Agusan del Sur PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] provincial commander, and backed by the 414th PC Company under Capt. Felicisimo Kho, figured in the initial firefight.

The battle started at 5:45 pm.

Baluyot told Brig. Gen. Hermogenes Peralta Jr., Northern Mindanao PC-INP chief, that the soldiers seized several high-powered firearms, boxes of live ammunition including hand grenades, canned goods, dried fish, medicines and cash amounting to P3,950.

The military said the rebels fighting in the battle were members of the Agusan del Sur provincial party committee (ADSPPC) under Ernesto Corato alias Commander Cobra.

Maj. Perfecto Barribal, assistant provincial commander, and Capt. Doroteo Palconit, operations officer, said before the firefight, a certain Julieta Polo, alias Ka [comrade] Julie was captured while collecting taxes from businessmen. Seized from her was a .38 caliber Smith and Wesson revolver.

As of last night, the gun battle was still raging in the mountains of Cabawan toward barangay Novele of Rosario town.

Two Wounded in NPA Attack in Davao City

HK0511033990 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 5 Nov 90 p 23

[By Ped Velasco]

[Text] Davao City—Urban partisans of the New People's Army (NPA), known also as "Sparrows" because of the swiftness of their attacks, struck anew Saturday morning at Orcullo Park, this city, seriously wounding a military man and a civilian.

Wounded were T/Sgt. Reynaldo Saines of the PC [Philippine Constabulary] Criminal Investigation Service (CIS) and Dionisio Trajeco. They were taken to the San Pedro Hospital here for treatment.

Witnesses said Saines has just alighted from his service jeep and was walking toward an eatery when shot by two young men armed with .45 caliber pistols. The attackers walked casually away after the shooting.

Police said Saines was able to fire back but did not hit his target. Trajeco was standing infront of a store some 15 meters away from the eatery when hit by a stray bullet in the neck.

Meanwhile, Col. Manuel Salimbangon, PC-INP [Integrated National Police] Recom [Regional Command] 11 chief, said the NPA "Sparrows" operating in this city are from other places.

Salimbangon assured it will not take long before these hitmen will be identified and arrested with the help of the "Alsa Masa" [People's Uprising] anticommunist movement.

Government Crackdown Pressures Bataan Communists

HK0511033390 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 5 Nov 90 p 23

[By Efren P. Molina]

[Text] Balanga, Bataan—Leaders of suspected communist front organizations in Bataan have gone into hiding to escape a government crackdown, military officers at Camp Tolentino said yesterday.

Lt. Col. Enrique B. Galang Jr., Bataan PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] commander, ordered the crackdown on labor, students, fishermen, farmers, transport and religious organizations the military has identified as "communist fronts."

The crackdown followed the filing by the Constabularly last week of arson charges against Kilusang Mayo Uno [1 May Movement] chairman Crispin Beltran, a human rights lawyer, a church pastor, and nine alleged communist rebels.

A team of PC and police operatives was formed by Galang to carry out the crackdown order. Coordinating with the PC-INP team is the Army's 68th Infantry Battalion led by Maj. Juanito Gomez.

The Bataan PC-INP chief said that those who have not committed any wrong against the state and the people need not fear, adding that every suspect will be treated with justice and fairness.

In a related development, Galang ordered the mobilization of troops in the province following reports that another "Welga ng Bayan" [National strike] will be staged today by groups protesting the presence in the country of the U.S. military bases.

The human rights lawyer accused of arson with Beltran was named in the criminal information sheet as Dante Ilaya, chairman of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan [New Nationalist Alliance]) in Bataan.

Beltran and Ilayan were charged with pastor Rustico Yumul of the United Church of Christ of the Philippines and the following alleged communist rebels: Ernesto Bergulia, Noel Mallari, Bismark Gempasao, Leonardo Batoon, Manolito Gaor, Benedicto Santos, Mario Pizarro, Jaime Trinidad and Renato Esguerra.

Galang said Beltran, Ilaya, and Yumul were "principals by inducement" in the burning of a Victory Liner bus during the Oct. 24 general strike. He said the bus was burned by communist protesters.

The bus was stopped and burned by rebels in Kaparanga, Orani, after all its passengers were ordered to disembark.

Combat of Broadcast Rebel Propaganda 'Ordered'

HK0611071990 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Report by Rey Timbol from the Department of Justice]

[Text] Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon has ordered the NBI [National Bureau of Investigation] and justice courts to combat the propaganda being spread by the rebels. Here is Rey Timbol with the details:

[Begin recording] Secretary Franklin Drilon of the Department of Justice has ordered all regional directors of the NBI, Public Attorneys Office, or PAO, and justices to undertake the creation of a task force aimed at combating rebel propaganda in their respective areas. In Memorandum Circular No. 10, Drilon ordered the formation of the task force to counteract propaganda being aired on commercial radio stations and television aimed at fighting the current government. In the same directive, Drilon also ordered the said task force to coordinate with the National Telecommunications Commission and the PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] command in their respective areas for the speedy implementation of instructions contained in the directive.

Drilon further added that the failed coup attempt led by ex-Colonel Alexander Noble in Cagayan de Oro City was said to have been participated in by several commercial radio stations in Mindanao who allegedly encouraged people to support the Mindanao Independence Movement, which was to be headed by Ruben Canoy, a Philippine civilian desiring to break ties with the country. [end recording]

NPA Rebel Leader Reynaldo Bernardo Arrested

OW0511110190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1036 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Manila, Nov. 5 KYODO—The military Monday announced the arrest of an alleged high-ranking communist rebel leader believed to be behind the murder of an American Army colonel, the rash of killings in the capital, and the burning of passenger buses during last month's strike by militant unions.

Philippine Army Chief Maj. Gen. [Major General] Guillermo Flores identified the arrested rebel leader as Reynaldo Bernardo, alias Comrade James/Comrade Bokbok, vice commander and intelligence chief of the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB), the New People's Army (NPA) unit operating in the capital.

Flores said Bernardo, who is also a regular member of the communist party's committee operating in Manila and neighboring regions of Rizal, is believed to be involved in the killing of U.S. Army Col. [Colonel] James Rowe last year and to be responsible for planning the liquidation of high-ranking or "quality targets" of the ABB.

Bernardo, 36, did not resist when arrested by Army and police operatives in front of a restaurant Sunday morning in suburban Quezon City, Flores added. He was reportedly found in possession of a .45 caliber pistol, a beeper, several dollar and 500 peso bills and sensitive rebel documents detailing assassination plots against U.S. personnel in time for the resumption on Thursday of talks on the future of U.S. bases in the country.

Flores said military operatives had difficulty establishing the real identity of Bernardo, because he was very careful in answering interrogators. "We had to get (military) assets to identify him, because we only knew him as Comrade James," Flores told reporters.

The ABB has claimed responsibility for the killing of more than 100 police and military officers since it started in 1984 with the slaying of Brig. Gen. Romas Karingal, chief of the northern police district in the capital.

It has also been tagged by the military as being behind the killing of at least 10 people and the burning of at least 23 passenger buses during last month's three-day general strike by militant unions pressing for a 38 peso increase in the daily minimum wage.

Meanwhile, Luis Jalandoni, vice chairman of an underground communist international affairs unit, said in an interview with the rebel organ "News of the Free Philippines" that a strong mass movement is playing a vital role in pushing the government to take a firm stand on the dismantling of two U.S. military bases and auxiliary facilities when their lease expires on September 16, 1991.

Capture Said Big Setback

HK0611040990 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 6 Nov 90 p 3

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] The arrest last Sunday of a top-ranking leader of the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) is a big setback in operations in Metro Manila of the urban terrorist group.

Reynaldo Sombillo Bernardo, 36, of San Ildefonso, Bulacan, was arrested by a joint army and police intelligence [as published] at a restaurant in Timog Avenue, Quezon City. He is also known as Ka [Comrade] Kames or Ka Bukbuk and is a principal suspect in the killing of U.S. Army Col. James Rowe of the Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) in April 1989 at the corner of Timog and Tomas Morato in Quezon City.

Maj. Gen. Guillermo Flores, army chief, said Bernardo's arrest "definitely will be a big setback in the partisan operations being conducted by the ABB in Manila."

Flores said Bernardo is the second in command of the New People's Army (NPA) urban hit squad. He is also an executive committee member of the Manila-Rizal regional party committee which is headed by Felimon Lagman.

Bernardo, the military said, is responsible for the buildup of intelligence and the selction of quality targets of ABB assassination squads.

Bernardo's arrest came three days before the Philippine-U.S. Military Bases Agreement panel starts its third round of talks for the future of the U.S. military facilities here.

The rebels have warned and threatened U.S. personnel to sabotage the discussions on the future of the bases.

Bernardo had just met a group of people inside the "Pansit ng Taga-Malabon" restaurant when intelligence agents under Co. Rolando Bautista accosted him.

Bernardo, armed with a .45 pistol, did not resist arrest. He was immediately whisked to Fort Bonifacio but military authorities did not at once identify him.

He was transferred to the Intelligence Services of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] (Isafp) headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday where he was finally identified.

"We were really after Nilo de la Cruz, head of the ABB, but we were not able to get him," Flores said. "He was also very careful in answering questions thrown by the intelligence men and it took us sometime before we got somebody to identify him."

Leader's Capture Would Mean 'Setback' for NPA

HK0511092590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa announced that the capture of the New People's Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade [NPA-ABB] leader is a great setback to the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP]-NPA-National Democratic Front [NDF]. De Villa stated this morning that if Army intelligence agents have captured Nilo de la Cruz of the ABB this will mean a big setback for NPA operation in Metro Manila. He added that the rebels' force is weakening due to the loss of sympathy from the general public. Here is part of General de Villa's statement:

[Begin recording in English] If it is true that, as the INQUIRER said this morning, then certainly the ABB must be in a difficult situation right now. But even without that, I do not think that the ABB has any sympathy from anyone right now especially with the destruction that they undertook during the last welga [strike]. The ABB has lost the sympathy of the people because the nation knows who they are. [end recording]

ABB Issues Denial of Capture

HK0511092790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Part of a statement by the Alex Boncayao Brigade, ABB, issued to DZRH denying a report that its chief, Nilo de la Cruz was arrested by the military; read by its spokesman—in English]

[Text] Urgent media release. Regarding capture of Nilo P. de la Cruz.

I learned about my capture through the media, particularly the INQUIRER which bannered it today and some radio stations which repeatedly aired the report. Immediately, I sensed that something was not quite just right. Please accommodate the following three points in the interest of truth and service to our people:

1. The news about my capture, obviously emanating from the most polluted source, the Armed Forces, is a one hundred percent lie. I am definitely free from the (clashes) of the reactionary military and safely in the midst of the masses whom I have sworn to serve in my humble capacity. I am concerned about whoever the Aquino government has apprehended in my stead. He could be a relative or a namesake but absolutely not my person whom the military has tagged as chief of the ABB of the NPA [New People's Army] with a one million peso reward on his head. I wish to say nevertheless that I am flattered by the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] high regard for me.

2. The U.S.-Aquino regime will spare no effort in destroying the prestige and credibility of the National Democratic Front.

Rebel Discusses Members' Pullout From Movement

HK0511060190 Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog 5 Nov 90 p 1

[By Fer Taboy, DIYARYO correspondent]

[Text] Some officers and members of the communist movement who are assigned in Manila and other cities disassociate themselves from the group due to addiction to vices, luxurious life-style, and unnecessary spending of funds. This was stated by Prudencio "Ending" Calubid, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army's [CPP-NPA's] Mindanao commission in an interview with DIYARYO recently. Calubid, who carries a million-peso price for his capture, was against the deployment of CPP-NPA officers and members to Manila and other cities because according to him, it is expensive and is the root of jealousy and irregularities, which are against the CPP-NPA objectives.

"When those assigned to the cities are wallowed in vices and luxury, their principles get ruined, and they are forced to turn away from the movement," Calubid said.

He said that many of their comrades in the National Capital Region [NCR] are living in condominiums and exclusive subdivisions. This luxury is heavy on the movement's pocket. According to Calubid, when support for these comrades stops, they are forced to return to the fold of the law, adding that: "No one can blame the returnees because their support from the top officers had stopped".

However, Calubid assured that they will continue their battle in the mountains despite their difficulties and the fact their comrades in the cities enjoy a good life.

In his Waray dialect, Calubid expressed sadness: "You know, here in the field, many of our suffering comrades remain unattended by higher CPP-NPA officials. Those people at the top neglect to provide medicine to the rebels. "We have a shortage of medicine for the wounded, and many are sad about it," Calubid said.

"We in the mountains are content with eating raw sweet potatoes and vines. Those who are sent to the NCR are having a good life and spending large sums of money from our fund, which we obtained by hard work," Calubid stated.

Apart from living in expensive apartments, their taste for food has also changed. "They eat fried chicken and crispy pork legs in big restaurants, and this consumes a big chunk of our fund," Calubid added. He warned that if their top leaders could not bring the situation under control, the CPP-NPA would experience further member pullout and said: "This will be a great setback for the movement because it is very likely that our hiding places will be disclosed to the military."

Thailand

Cabinet Approves Cambodian Repatriation Plan

BK0611152090 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The cabinet held a meeting at Government House today. It approved the proposal by the Education Ministry on a plan of a congregation of Buddhist monks and laymen at the Buddhist Center from 3 to 7 December to mark the king's birthday. [passage omitted]

The cabinet also approved the proposal forwarded by the National Security Council on preparations to repatriate about 300,000 Cambodian displaced persons stranded at the refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodian border. Under the plan, six transit centers will be set up for this purpose.

Columnist Comments on Banhan's Political Moves

BK0411024090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Nov 90 p B3

["Sideline" column by Sopon Onkgara]

[Text] Banhan Sinlapa-acha, the embattled interior minister, resurfaced oozing with confidence back into the murky political scene last week. It was a quick recovery after he was badly clobbered by rounds of tirades unleashed by fellow Cabinet member, Pol Capt [Police Captain] Chaloem Yubamrung, who turned their once astonishing rapport into an event worthy enough to be recorded in our own political hall of shame.

The stocky but immensely wealthy minister sported a broad grin—something which had lately disappeared from his face—when he assured a group of reporters during a merit-making ceremony in his hometown in Suphan Buri Province that there would be no Cabinet reshuffle.

The confidence extended to unconcealed arrogance when he declared that he would remain the top boss of the powerful Interior Ministry until the House of Representatives is dissolved or when another general election is called. He seems content enough with no change in the status quo.

Banhan's survival was made possible through his crafty manoeuvring in soliciting strong support from about 70 members of the Chat Thai Party, of which he is secretary general and a major financier, to keep him in the interior portfolio.

The controversial minister was aware that he was among those on the priority list of Cabinet members to be reshuffled as announced by Prime Minister Gen [General] Chatchai before his departure for a visit to Britain and Switzerland last month. There were reports that Banhan would be kicked upstairs to become a deputy prime minister, and thus, deprived of meaningful Cabinet responsibility.

Banhan was equally aware that he could not permit that to happen, as it would mark a major setback for him within the Chat Thai Party. He had to avoid that at all costs and do it fast to convince Chatchai that he still maintained a strong following within the party.

So on September 25, he led a group of about 70 Chat Thai MPs to call on Chatchai. It was, on the surface, seen as a pep-up rally to cheer up the prime minister who was experiencing deep political turmoil. In fact, the visit served as a thinly-veiled display of intra-party political power. Banhan made sure that one of the gathering MPs asked the prime minister about another Cabinet reshuffle. At the same time, the group urged the premier that whatever change which might occur, Banhan's position should not be touched.

It was not hard to guess that Chatchai got the message and was clearly disturbed, if not angered by the power play.

Late last week, Chat Thai members resolved again that Banhan must remain interior minister. This made it increasingly difficult for Chatchai to effect a Cabinet reshuffle as earlier announced. Fellow coalition member, the Social Action Party, was firm that its Cabinet members should also remain intact despite previous reports that Transport and Communications Minister Montri Phongphanit, who has been equally controversial, could also be elevated to the inactive deputy premiership.

The strengthened position of Banhan and his intransigence in wanting to keep the interior post thus effectively ties the hands of Chatchai who feels that there is a need to further improve the image of the Chat Thai-led coalition which had been rocked by a stream of scandals over suspected corruption among senior Cabinet members.

The manoeuvring by Banhan also reflects his desperate struggle. He obviously is prepared to cling on to short-term benefits and ignore long-term political risks. His period at the Interior Ministry has already cost him many friends—including some of a group of senior newspaper columnists generally known as "The 18 Golden Praetorian Guards".

Critics of Banhan alleged that the bunch of vanguards was on his payroll. They, while being widely held in awe by corrupt politicians and civil servants, usually did not hit at Banhan and, at times, shielded him from attacks by potential adversaries long yearning for his downfall. But when it reached a certain point, many of them decided to abandon him when the minister found himself in deep trouble, and particularly during a one-sided verbal onslaught by Chaloem.

Besides, the columnists found a common goal in their attempt, together with other journalists, in relentlessly lambasting the minister for his refusal to get rid of Decree 42 which maintains strict control on the Press despite the urging of the prime minister.

Banhan's showdown of political strength within the Chat Thai Party against Chatchai hardly did him any good. The relationship between the two has long been soured. Besides, there was no love lost between him [and] the premier's Ban Phitsanulok group of advisers who saw the minister as being too ambitious and as one who refused to accept his own limitations.

Such obstinate but misguided courage will one day exact a heavy toll on the minister's political future. The prime minister still holds the trump card if he is fed up with too much infighting and cares enough about his own public image by simply dissolving the House of Representatives and call for a snap election. It will be something really positive for the country when voters can dump the ones who, they think, are crooks.

Even if this happens, Banhan is not worried. His reelection by Suphan Buri voters is as certain as that the sun will rise tomorrow. But not all went well for the politically-bruised minister. There were reports that somebody hurled a hand grenade at his residence late last month, followed by a phone threat on his life. The reports about the blast were immediately denied. Banhan said it was a thunderbolt that struck certain minerals long embedded within the compound of his house. They were shortly removed by a team of scientists, he contended.

But the number of policemen guarding the minister's residence has been increased since then. There are more police guards in his entourage though Banhan claimed he had never liked it. Senior police officers gave different accounts about the grenade explosion, which was seen as a warning rather than as a serious attempt on his life. Some said it was a blast by a hand grenade while others, avoiding a possible wrath from the minister, simply sealed their lips. Recriminations could cost them dear in the advancement of their career.

Banhan should know best whether it was a thunderbolt or a grenade explosion and neither of which bodes well for him. If it was a blast while he insisted that it was a natural phenomenon, then it means that the minister prefers to lie rather than being ridiculed further, at least politically.

Would Chatchai want to keep a senior Cabinet member who did not even blink in stating a blatant falsehood? If he could lie once to protect his political leverage, it would not be difficult for him to do it again on other issues. It would not be far off the mark to say that the interior minister had long lost the public trust in him following a series of controversies he generated in his show of political arrogance.

But should public interest be put to the risk in the face of the questionable performance by the interior minister? The prime minister has to come up with an answer, and better sooner than later so that the public can again judge him by the company he keeps, especially when it happens to include crooks and liars.

Interior Ministry Tops in Corruption Complaints

BK0311084290 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Nov 90 p A2

[Text] Interior Ministry personnel topped the list of government officials against whom corruption complaints have been filed with the Counter Corruption Commission (CCC) this year, a CCC spokesman said yesterday.

Among 1,209 complaints involving suspected corruption, 701 were lodged against Interior Ministry officials, 249 against Agriculture Ministry officals, 242 against Education Ministry officials and four each against officials of the Foreign and Science ministries, said the chairman of the CCC's public relations subcommittee, Pricha Suwannathat.

Pricha said the CCC had received 2,172 complaints about corruption and the "unusual" wealth of government officials and state enterprise employees over the past 10 months.

The number was considerably lower than last year's figure of 2,746 during the same period. The commission received 2,491 and 2,537 complaints in 1988 and 1987 respectively.

But Pricha said corruption complaints against senior governnment officials increased remarkably this year, reaching 253 while the number of similar complaints last year was 147. Most of the cases involved encroachment on public land, he said. The senior officials included armed forces officers with ranks of major general upwards and civil servants of C-9 rank upwards, the spokesman said.

Most of the senior government officials who have been accused of accumulating unaccountable wealth are policemen, with officials from the Irrigation Department ranking second, Pricha said. He noted that one of the biggest corruption caes the CCC was asked to investigate this year was the Mass Communication Organization of

Thailand's controversial termination of a Bt[baht]225 million advertising contract with the Little Duck Co.

Asked to comment on the increasing graft complaints against senior government officials, Pricha said he believed it was partly related to the lack of an effective mechanism to suppress corruption.

Need for Action on High-Level Corruption Viewed

BK0311091290 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Nov 90 p A8

[Editorial: "Ball in the Premier's Court"]

[Text] Prime Minister [PM] Chatchai Chunhawan has another hot potato on his hands. The Counter Corruption Commission (CCC) on Thursday reaffirmed its ruling against Rachan Husen, director of the Mass Communications Organization of Thailand (MCOT), in regards to a scandalous television advertising deal. The CCC's ruling will go to Chatchai, who will either have to decide on disciplinary action or form a committee to mete out the punishment.

The dilemma facing Chatchai is that Rachan is a political protege of PM's Office Minister Chaloem Yubamrung, who hand-picked Rachan for the top post at MCOT. The agency is a state enterprise directly under Chaloem's responsibility and it is understandable that he feels protective of it. The minister categorically rejected the CCC's ruling against Rachan where it was first announced in May, and practically declared war on the commission, accusing it of political mudslinging.

Chaloem's attacks just added insult to injury for the CCC, which was already suffering a credibility crisis. But the real issue now is that Chaloem happens to be one of Chatchai's political lieutenants. Chatchai has on several occasions shielded Chaloem against his numerous political adversaries. He even defied pressure from the military to remove the minister for critical remarks he made against some top officers.

But this is more than simple politics. On one hand, Chatchai has to live up to his pledge to combat government corruption. One way of doing that is to restore credibility to the CCC by giving it his full support whenever it is needed. On the other, Chatchai may feel inclined to submit to political necessity. After all, the prime minister is a master politican. The fact that he made no attempt to restrain Chaloem in his harangue against the CCC was already bad enough.

The CCC's ruling was further defied when a committee appointed by the MCOT board of directors, of which Chaloem is chairman, ruled that Rachan was innocent of the charges against him, which amounted to that he caused the state enterprise to lose Bt[baht]225 million in revenue by cancelling an advertising contract between Channel 9 and a private entertainment company. The MCOT board claimed Rachan revoked the contract in good faith. But the CCC reaffirmed its original ruling on Thursday.

The scandal has been a big controversy and all eyes are set on the step that the prime minister will take. The CCC found that besides facing disciplinary action, Rachan could be prosecuted on criminal charges of having caused financial losses to the state enterprise. And it is up to Chatchai to decide how he wants to deal with Rachan. The CCC is confident it has a solid case and sees it as a crucial test of whatever credibility it has left. For political reason, Chatchai certainly does not want to risk upsetting Chaloem by going all out against Rachan, as recommended by the CCC. The worst that can happen to Rachan is getting fired from MCOT and being ordered by the court, if criminal charges are to be filed against him, to pay compensation to the state enterprise.

But the prime minister has very little choice. If he wants to demonstrate that he is serious about clamping down on corruption, this particular case presents a good chance for him to do it. Investigating a senior civil servant or a top state enterprise employee is not an everyday case for the CCC. If Chatchai wants a "receipt"—as he always demands from the opposition MPs or the press when questioned on his inability to deal with high-level corruption—the CCC has presented him with one. Now, he has to decide what to do with it.

Thai-Lao Border Subcommittee Meeting Begins

BK0611083590 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The third meeting of the Thai-Lao Joint Technical Subcommittee began this morning at the Foreign Ministry. The meeting was jointly opened by Thailand's Deputy Foreign Minister Amnuai Yotsuk and Laos' Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Souban Salitthilat, cochairmen of the Thai-Lao Joint Border Committee.

Leading the Thai delegation in the two-day meeting scheduled for 6-7 November is Prachit Rotchanaphruk, director general of the Treaty and Legal Department, while Aloun Keokittikhoun, deputy director of the International Organization Department is head of the Lao team.

Addressing the opening of the meeting, the Thai deputy foreign minister said this Thai-Lao technical subcommittee meeting will focus on the legal issue after the subcommittees of both countries twice jointly inspected in 1989 the geographical conditions and the possible border demarcation line in the disputed area linking Ban Romklao, Chat Trakan District, Phitsanulok Province, and Boten District, Sayaboury Province. He therefore believed the meeting will proceed smoothly in order that the Thai-Lao border becomes the border of peace for good.

On the same occasion, the Lao deputy foreign minister said he hoped both Thailand and Laos and their peoples will triumphantly achieve a success in resolving the existing Ban Romklao border conflict.

Lao Official Lauds SRV Cooperation Initiative

BK0611021690 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Nov 90 p A2

[By Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Text] Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat has praised a call for greater regional cooperation for the benefit of all countries in Southeast Asia.

Speaking upon his arrival here yesterday, Souban said Laos agreed to idea of a new era of increased regional cooperation and wanted to see it become reality. "The initiative is good, and Laos agrees with it and wants to see the programme put into practice," he said.

The proposal was first floated by Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach during his meetings here last week with Premier Chatchai Chunhawan and Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan.

Thach suggested that both countries put aside the 12-year-old Cambodian problem, which was to be resolved by the Cambodians themselves, and start anew with bilateral and regional cooperation. His initiative was warmly welcomed by Chatchai, who responded with an invitation for a summit here between him and Vietnamese Prime Minister Do Muoi later this month.

Apart from cooperation, Souban, who is here as guest of Deputy Foreign Minister Amnuai Yotsuk, said he wanted to see countries in the region assist each another in different fields.

Contrary to Vietnam's desire to be a member of the existing Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Laos has not yet given thought to the idea, but it wants to be a signatory of the 1976 Bali Declaration, which calls for noninterference in the countries of Southeast Asia, Souban said.

On bilateral ties with Thailand, the Laotian minister said the relations were "quite good", citing the exchange of visits between Chatchai and Laotian Premier Kaysone Phomvihan. But there were still some problems, which needed to be resolved, said Souban without identifying them.

Laos, he said, wanted to see an increase and exchange of cooperation in every field, as it was developing from a "natural economy to a commercial one."

He said he was not satisfied with the rate of Thai investment in Laos, adding that Thai businessmen tended to invest in quick profit-return industries, while Laos wanted to see projects to develop its infrastructure. "No Thai company is interested in developing Laos' infrastructure, but some of those from Japan and France have already expressed their interest in doing so," he said.

The Laotian minister expressed hope for an increase in Thai investments in his country now that the two countries have already signed an agreement on investment protection. But both have yet to ratify the pact.

Souban will call on Amnuai this morning and the two ministers will later chair the third-round of the joint technical commission meeting to resolve the disputed border area between Phitsanulok's Chat Trakan district and Boten District in Laos' Sayaboury Province.

Lao Refugees in Thailand To Be Repatriated

BK0411093390 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Sakthip Krairoek, spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, disclosed that in November and December, a total of 1,055 Lao refugees in Thailand will be repatriated on a voluntary basis.

The Thai Embassy in Vientiane said they have been informed of the plan to voluntarily repatriate Lao refugees by Mr. Daniel Bellamy, chief of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] Office in Vientiane. The plan has already been approved by high-level Lao authorities and is scheduled for November and December. It is as follows:

A total of 159 Yao people will be sent back through the Chiang Khong-Houai Sai border checkpoint to a temporary camp being built by the UNHCR Office. Five batches of 95 Lao Mai refugees will be sent through the Nong Khai-Tha Deua border checkpoint to the UNHCR Office's temporary camp in Lan Longbong, Ton Pheung District. A total of 111 Lao refugees consisting of 102 Yao, six Muser, and three Tui people will be sent through the Chiang Khong-Houai Sai checkpoint to Phiang District, Sayaboury Province before proceeding to Ton Pheung District, Bokeo Province.

In addition, the UNHCR Office is coordinating with Thailand and Laos to repatriate another 250 Yao people through the border checkpoint in Tha Li District, Loei Province to Kenthao District, Sayaboury Province. Also, 50 Lum refugees in two groups with the first batch of 28 will be sent through the Mukdahan-Savannakhet border point to settle in Khammouane, Savannakhet, Sekong, and Champassak. The second group of 22 Lum refugees will be repatriated through the Nong Khai-Tha Deua border point to settle in the Vientiane municipality and Vientiane Province.

Premier Chatchai To Visit PRC 14-16 Nov

BK0611011790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan will visit China on November 14-16 when he will hold talks with his Chinese counterpart, Li Peng, on the forthcoming visit of Vietnamese Prime Minister Do Muoi.

Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan told reporters upon his return last night from Beijing that Li Peng was pleased that Thailand and Vietnam would be able to improve their relations.

Mr Subin said the Chinese Premier urged the four Cambodian factions to come up with a solution on the chairmanship and vice chairmanship of the Supreme National Council.

Further on Military Seizure of Radio Truck

Military Issues Statement

BK0511153190 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Statement of the Internal Peacekeeping Command, read by Director of the Supreme Command Information Office Lieutenant General Narudon Detpradiyut, on the seizure of the mobile radio unit of the Mass Communications Organization of Thailand by the military, issued on 5 November—recorded]

[Text] Statement of the Internal Peacekeeping Command on the seizure of the multipurpose radio mobile unit:

The Internal Peacekeeping Command has, since 22 June, impounded the mobile radio unit with electronic devices belonging to the Mass Communications Organization of Thailand after knowing that the unit had been illegally used by the organization's personnel in a manner that was damaging to the service of maintaining internal law and order and safeguarding national security.

The Internal Peacekeeping Command, which is in charge of maintaining law and order under the Decree on the Director of the Internal Peacekeeping Command, B.E. [Buddhist Era] 2519, issues the following statement for the knowledge of the Thai people nationwide concerning steps it has taken.

1. In mid June this year, the Internal Peacekeeping Command received a report saying that the communications network of the military, especially the airborne warning system of the Air Force, had come under frequent interference. After checking, it was found that this was due to the operations of a multipurpose radio mobile unit, equipped with electronic devices, located behind Wat Phailiang Temple on Phetkasem Road, Soi 110, in Nong Khaem District, Bangkok Metropolis. The unit was manned by four personnel. Since 17 June, it had been in operation days and nights in a suspicious manner.

On 22 June, the supreme commander, in his capacity as director of the Internal Peacekeeping Command, ordered military authorities to apprehend the mobile radio unit along with its four personnel and bring them to the Joint Operations Center of the Internal Peacekeeping Command at Sanam Suapa. The investigation revealed that the four officials of the Mass Communications Organization were operating the unit, equipped with high-power communications and electronics equipment, for transmission on FM frequencies over areas covering Bangkok and outlying provinces, and relaying of broadcasting to other stations. It was also found that the truck is equipped with telecommunications transmitters and receivers, which usually exist only for use by the military to jam frequencies, or to intercept and eavesdrop on the communications of the military service. The frequencies located were the frequencies used by the Army, Navy, and Air Force. This means that it was meant to intercept communications of the three branches of the Armed Forces in order to know about military secrets concerning instructions about national defense operations.

2. The director of the Internal Peacekeeping Command considered that the above action constituted a danger to military communications and would eventually affect national security, and therefore had to be stopped immediately. It has therefore ordered the seizure of the mobile radio unit and its equipment. The director of the Internal Peacekeeping Command has reported the matter to the prime minister for acknowledgement and for further instruction.

The Internal Peacekeeping Command realized that the maintenance of internal law and order and national security is vital for the happiness of the people. Therefore it has to keep up with the duties assigned to it strictly under the framework of law. The three branches of the Armed Forces hold as a challenge to their commander the verbal attack by a certain politician over the television service regardless of the fact that director of the Internal Peacekeeping Command has been trying to gently handle this case of violation of law in accordance with the prime minister's order. The three branches of the Armed Forces deemed it necessary to find appropriate and drastic measures for further action.

This is for the information of the general public.

Internal Peacekeeping Command, 5 November 1990.

Chatchai Settles Conflict

BK0511150790 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan has ended the conflict over the mobile radio truck of the Mass Communications Organization of Thailand. He told reporters after presiding over a meeting of the Civil Service Commission at the Office of the Civil Service Commission this afternoon that he will look after the truck and will keep it for use in his capacity as the prime minister. Commenting on the same issue, Suwit Yotmani, spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office, said that he had been assigned by the prime minister to clarify the issue for all sides. He said:

[Begin Suwit recording] He [Chatchai] decided to take the truck to the Government House and place it under the supervision of the Government House. Anyone who wants to use it has to ask for permission from the prime minister. The prime minister will be the only person to approve the requests. Every agency has the right to use it because the mobile unit is very modern and can be used for several purposes. So, any agency that wants to use it can ask permission from the prime minister. After the prime minister talked to all sides concerned over this issue, we immediately reported the results to the mass media and the public so that there will be no more confusion over the issue. [end recording]

Army Ignores Premier's Demand

BK0611040090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Nov 90 pp A1, A2

[Text] Supreme Commander Sunthon Khongsompong said yesterday the military would keep a controversial mobile radio station for an unspecified period despite the Prime Minister's [PM] order that it be transferred to Government House.

The military also issued a warning that it would take "appropriate, drastic" action in response to PM's Office Minister Chaloem Yubamrung's recent criticism of the supreme commander.

Chaloem on Sunday challenged Sunthon to have police take action against the Mass Communications Organization of Thailand [MCOT] if the commander had evidence that the mobile station, which was seized from MCOT by the military in June, had threatened national security.

The Supreme Command has charged that the mobile station was used to eavesdrop on confidential military communications.

Sunthon, speaking last night at a party for newly-promoted generals at the Supreme Command headquarters, gave the go-ahead for military officers to stage a show of force in protest against Chaloem's "provocations".

Asked if the Supreme Command would transfer the mobile radio station to Government House as ordered by Prime Minister Chatchai, Sunthon simply said: "Not yet".

But Sunthon praised the prime minister's efforts to end the conflict between the Supreme Command and MCOT which Chaloem oversees.

The supreme commander declined to say whether he was satisfied with Chatchai's compromise proposal to have the seized station transferred to Government Hsouse and put under his care. "The prime minister wants to put this issue to rest and we are his subordinates," Sunthon said, but stopped short of saying how the Supreme Command would react to Chatchai's proposal.

Sunthon said he did not know when the conflict would be settled. "Take it easy, reporters. It's still premature to say whether the situation will improve or worsen," he said.

Sunthon added that he would not actually ask officers to protest in the wake of Chaloem's strong criticism against him, but added that he would not restrain them either. "It's soldiers' right to do anything they want when their boss is insulted and scorned, and their dignity has been trampled on," he said.

Sunthon made the remark after a military statement was released that threatened "drastic action" against Chaloem. The strongly-worded statement by the Internal Security Command did not specify what action would be taken against Chaloem, who came under attack by the military earlier this year when he traded corruption charges with ex-army chief Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

The statement said Sunthon, who is concurrently the commander for national security, had tried to deal "leniently" with Chaloem. But, it said, Chaloem "has used TV to broadcast his defiant and aggressive remarks against the military commander."

"Therefore, the three armed forces are obliged to consider appropriate, drastic action" against Chaloem, the statement concluded.

Army Commander-in-Chief Gen [General] Suchinda Khraprayun appeared unconcerned in the midst of the controversy yesterday. The army chief expressed surprise upon learning that the mobile station was still in the Supreme Command's hands yesterday.

"Really? Maybe Prime Minister Chatchai wants the military to help take care of it for a while," he said. Assistant Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit said he did not believe that officers would stage a show of force.

Nakasone Stops in Bangkok En Route to Iraq

OW0311081990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0650 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Bangkok, Nov. 3 KYODO—Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone stopped here on his way to Baghdad on a special Japan Airlines flight loaded with supplies for foreign hostages in Iraq and Kuwait on Saturday for refueling and inspection of the plane's cargo.

Nakasone is heading to Iraq for talks with President Saddam Husayn in hopes of reaching a peaceful settlement of the Persian Gulf crisis and securing the release of foreign hostages.

Nakasone's delegation, including eight ruling Liberal Democratic Party members of the Diet, is taking medicine, clothing, and other supplies for the Japanese and other foreign hostages.

During the group's four-day stay in Baghdad, Nakasone will also meet Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan and Chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat.

Third-country inspection of cargo bound for Iraq is required to comply with United Nations resolutions imposing economic sanctions against Iraq for its August 2 invasion of Kuwait. Thailand agreed, at Japan's request, to inspect the cargo to verify that it does not violate the sanctions.

Officials from the Thai Foreign Ministry and Civil Aviation Department conducted the inspection and the plane left less than two hours later. It was expected to arrive in Baghdad later in the day.

Singapore Regrets Handling of Break-In Incident

BK0611094690 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan briefed reporters at the Government House this morning about the recent incident in Singapore where an American sailor intruded the residence of the Thai ambassador to Singapore. He said that the Singapore ambassador to Thailand had expressed to him his regret over the break-in incident.

Meanwhile, embassies of various countries in Singapore have met with each other and will ask the Singapore authorities to improve rules and regulations concerning safety measures for them, Subin concluded. [passage omitted]

Official on U.S. Air Traffic Accord Talks

BK0611060290 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Nov 90 p B1

[By Phatchari Lueng U-thai and Yingyot Manchuwisit]

[Text] Thailand is still willing to negotiate with the United States over the bilateral air traffic agreement, but the basis of any talks must be a new pact and not a revision of the old one, a senior government official said yesterday.

This was Thailand's position after the final round of negotiations on renewing the air traffic agreement in Washington DC last week failed, killing any chance of the pact being signed, according to deputy permanent secretary of the Transport and Communications Ministry Mahidon Chatharangkun, who led the Thai negotiating team.

In defending Thailand's policy of negotiating a new agreement, Mahidon said any negotiation now will depend entirely on the Americans, but talks must be based on the condition that the previous agreement is cancelled. "The agreement must be based on creating fairness to both sides. To free-up traffic rights is possible if both sides are big countries, but in this case Thailand is a small country and to free traffic will create an imbalance," he said.

The three-day meeting over the crucial aviation agreement ended in failure last Thursday. The US negotiating team was led by James R Tarrant, special negotiator for Transportation Affairs.

It was the third, and final, attempt by both countries to agree on a way to continue the current bilateral system which has been in force for 11 years. Both sides had differing views on why the vital talks failed, with Thailand accusing the US team of refusing to negotiate a completely new agreement, while the Americans said that they had made many compromises in an attempt to extend the current agreement with new conditions, but that the Thais were being intransigent.

Mahidon disclosed that right after the meeting, the US representatives had accused the Thais of being insincere in that they did not want the negotiations to be successful, preferring to keep delaying the drawn-out negotiations until the 1979 agreement expired.

His response was that if the Thai team was insincere there would not have been any delegation sent to the negotiations. The failure to reach an agreement was a conflict in the principles of the negotiations.

Despite the aviation contract expiring, air transport between the two countries will be continued on a temporary basis in accordance with the previous agreement from Nov 3 until next April. US airlines will be allowed to operate 31 passenger and 7 cargo flights to Thailand, and Thailand is to have equal rights.

Thailand has further proposed that after the temporary agreement expires, the number of flights will be reduced to 28 a week, however the US team has refused to accept this proposal.

With the cancellation of the traffic rights agreement, US airlines stand to suffer losses of about Bt [baht] 7.5 billion a year, while Thailand is expected to gain from Bt500 to Bt900 million a year in revenue from the use of aircraft operating within the region.

"It is dangerous for one country to let another dominate the market until it can get more bargaining power," Mahidon said, refering to the US share of the market on the route between Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore. "Its dump capacity will make others unable to compete and develop their aviation industries."

Naret Howatthanakun, marketing director of Thai Airways International, said the airline is ready to increase its flight frequency to replace services by US airlines in case the latter cancel flights to the region.

U.S. Textile Talks Fail Over Quota Issue

BK0611035790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Nov 90 p 17

[Text] Textile talks with the United States have failed to make any progress following Washington's insistence that import quotas be reduced.

Thai Garment Manufacturing Association president Wirot Amatakunchai said Thailand had prepared detailed figures on textile and garment quotas for use in the negotiations, but the US unexpectedly said it instead wanted to add another seven-nine items to the specific limit group subject to quota controls.

Mr Wirot accompanied the delegation led by Foreign Trade Department Director-General Chare Chutharattanakun for the talks in Geneva. The US negotiators said they also wanted to reduce overall Thai quotas and "this caught the Thai side by surprise. We were prepared to talk about quota figures, but they came up with something completely different," he said.

It was agreed in principle in August that a new textile agreement be signed to replace that which expired at the end of 1988. Thailand had agreed conditionally then to accept a US proposal to maintain aggregate quotas on garment exports. Mr Wirot said Thai garment exports to the US had increased 70 percent over last year despite the absence of an agreement.

Burma Interested in Thai Gas Exploration Move

BK0611084390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Nov 90 p B2

[By Phitchaya Changson]

[Text] The Burmese (Myanmar) government is interested in Thai proposals for gas exploration in Martaban and a trans-national gas pipeline project. Meanwhile, PM's [Prime Minister's] Office Minister Kon Thappharangsi will lead a delegation to Vietnam next week to discuss cooperation in oil refining and petroleum exploration.

Sources at PTT [Petroleum Authority of Thailand] Exploration and Production [PTTEP] Co, a wholly-owned arm of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand, said Burma had asked Thailand to submit more details on the proposals for further consideration by the end of this month.

A preliminary estimate shows that Burma's Martaban holds a gas reserve of about 6.6 trillion cubic feet, sufficient for a large-scale commercial development. If the reserve is confirmed by further surveys, the development can take place and the gas can be transmitted through the proposed pipeline, which will run across the Thai-Burmese border.

Several countries may participate in both projects, but the PTTEP said it intends to hold at least 20 percent shares. Apart from income under a production sharing scheme, Burma also looks forward to earning foreign exchange from the export of liquefied natural gas. Both projects are estimated to cost about US$1 billion. Sources said the daily output of natural gas must be 250 million cubic feet a day to justify the large investment.

Meanwhile, sources said Vietnam is another neighbouring country with which Thailand is keen to cooperate in petroleum and related areas. They said the Thai delegation, which will visit Vietnam between November 14 and 16, will discuss the possibility of developing areas overlapping both countries' boundary claims in the Gulf of Thailand for petroleum. These areas are believed to have large crude oil reserves, which can be developed by a joint venture between Thailand and Vietnam.

Vietnam is expected to show reciprocal interest in the Thai initiative because it lacks technology to tap the offshore resources. At present, France is the only major foreign country with exploration activity in Vietnam. Other countries are not yet active because of political reasons.

Sources said a joint development area in the Gulf could be established in the same way as the one agreed upon between Thailand and Malaysia. The United States, the United Kingdom and other countries may also take part and provide technical know-how.

As for refining cooperation, the sources said, Vietnamese crude could be refined in Thailand for re-export to Vietnam, which does not have a large domestic refining capacity. This project is feasible because of the geographic proximity.

The government recently announced a liberal policy for new refinery projects planned in Thailand. Sources said this policy, by which the government no longer restricts new projects, will help turn the country into an oil refining centre for Indochinese neighbours.

Diplomatic Relations With Namibia Established

BK0611033390 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Republic of Namibia have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level with each other starting today.

In establishing diplomatic ties, the two countries will follow the principle of the United Nations Charter in order to promote their friendly relationship and cooperation in the interests of both countries. The practice will be carried out in line with the principles of international law, especially equality of all nations, respect for the independence and sovereignty of another country, territorial integrity, and non-interference in internal affairs of another country.

Banks' Bond Holding Reduced to 9.5 Percent

BK0611061090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Nov 90 p B1

[By Utsani Wongsawat]

[Text] Minister Wiraphong Ramangkun yesterday announced a "cautious" package of monetary measures aimed at easing the tight money situation in the next two months, which coincide with the start of the crop harvest season.

The short-term measures include an official approval to reduce banks' bond holding requirement from 16 per cent to 9.5 per cent, an increase in the credit facility through the loan window of another Bt[baht]7 billion and enough funds from the packing credit facility, ready to meet the needs of the farm sector.

But Wiraphong has delayed a decision on what to do with the credit squeeze on small housing loan borrowers and adjustment in the ceiling loan rate for a later date.

Wichit Suphinit, governor of the Bank of Thailand, said the new measures would be implemented next week at the latest, in time for the upcoming crop harvest season when the demand for money is usually high.

The central bank will also call a meeting with commercial banks on Nov 9 to discuss the economic outlook of the country, amidst rising oil prices and their credit extension position, he said.

Wiraphong said banks will also be permitted to hold more than eight per cent of their bond holding requirement, below the new minimum level of 9.5 per cent, in short-term assets tradable in the repurchase market.

The change in the bond holding requirement will make available another Bt45 billion surplus cash in the money market.

He said the authorities will also increase another Bt7 billion funding facility through the loan window. Sources estimated that the current outstanding is around Bt6 billion, equivalent to about one per cent of total savings outstanding of the country in 1985.

Wiraphong said it would be determined later if the interest rate on the loan window would be raised from 9.5 per cent, in line with market rates. He cited the inter-bank rates as an equivalent market benchmark now being quoted at about 12-13 per cent.

He added that only Bt17 billion of the total packing credit facility of Bt42 billion will be used, leaving Bt25 billion available to the export and the farm sector.

In the longer term, the finance minister said a review would be made of the banks' maximum net foreign exchange holding position of 20 per cent. Some banks have already called on the central bank to raise the net holding position in order to allow more liquidity to be injected into the economy. The 20 per cent net foreign exchange holding position is equivalent to about Bt16 billion worth of liquidity.

He added that the overall economic outlook is not precise, given the uncertainty in the movement of oil prices. Investment, inflation and balance of payment prospects will need further scrutiny.

Savings rates might also have to be adjusted if the increase does not keep pace with the demand for money, he said.

He hinted that the loan ceiling rate might also have to be adjusted, pending the prospects of credit extension by banks and movement of oil prices. "We just need a clear picture before anything else can be done," he reiterated.

Wiraphong said more study would be made on the alleged credit freeze by banks on small housing loan borrowers of less than Bt500,000 each where the maximum interest rate has been fixed at 15 per cent.

He said it has to be determined whether the borrowers are not getting loans because of their financial background or because the interest rate is too low in commercial terms, causing banks to stop lending to this group of borrowers. The central bank has reported that the demand for housing credit among small borrowers is still high.

The finance minister said since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, the government is faced with an additional Bt5 billion monthly payment on oil prices. The stock exchange has also become less liquid and the value of real estate has declined.

The baht, in the meantime, has appreciated against the US dollar, making Thai exports to the US and to countries whose currencies are tied to the US dollar less competitive.

The tight liquidity, in part, was also caused by the withdrawal of funds totalling Bt20 billion from corporate income tax payment in the middle of this year. The demand for credit remained high despite the oil price hike, reaching 36.5 per cent on an annual basis in September while deposits grew 30.3 per cent.

The authorities have so far been trying to cause the tight money situation by making available funds of Bt12 billion through the repurchase market and the loan window.

Wichit added that despite the slow-down in foreign fund inflows to the stock market, the amount for direct investment is still increasing.

Net inflows in September amounted to US$400 million, about US$20-30 million less than in August. The nine-month net inflows in the private sector amounted to Bt169.00 billion compared with Bt114.6 billion in the same period last year. "There is nothing to worry about. The liquidity problem is not very serious," he said, referring to the figures.

He said the demand for housing loans at less than Bt500,000 per each borrower at a maximum interest rate of 15 per cent was still rising. Banks have projected this category of loan to grow by 38.7 per cent this year and the eight-month data at 27.5 per cent revealed that the target would be met.

At the end of last year, the outstanding small housing loans totalled Bt395 billion. In the first eight months of this year, the total was Bt54 billion.

Vietnam

Radio on Thach's Visit to U.S, Other Countries

BK0511134390 Hanoi International Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] It is right that Vietnam has carried out many notable political diplomatic activities since the opening of the 45th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The meeting between Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in New York was considered a new step in the process of normalizing the Vietnam-U.S. relations.

After this meeting, Mr. Thach was invited to Washington to meet General John Vessey, special envoy of the U.S. President to discuss humanitarian issues. The U.S. press consider Mr. Thach's visit to Washington a breakthrough in the U.S.-Vietnamese relations. During his stay in New York and Washington, the Vietnamese top diplomat held talks with many American politicians and economists. The outcome of these contacts was that the U.S. businessmen and a number of American politicians have realized the importance and necessity to set up diplomatic relations with Vietnam and to call for lifting of the trade embargo against Vietnam.

In his visit to Japan, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach was warmly welcomed by high-ranking leaders of the host country. Radio BBC commented: The great warm reception made Mr. Thach's visit a success. Mr. Thach was received by the Japanese Emperor. He also held talks with Prime Minister Kaifu and [former] Foreign Minister Nakayama, and made contacts with Japanese businessmen who wanted to promote their trade and investment in Vietnam. Though the two sides did not sign any agreement or specific documents, since this visit the Vietnam-Japan relations have entered the new stage.

During his visit to Thailand, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach held talks with Thai leaders, helping strengthen the Thai-Vietnamese relations. The two sides exchanged measures aimed at strengthening the economic, cultural, scientific, and technological cooperation between the two countries. It was the first time over the past 10 years, the Thai Prime Minister officially invited the Vietnamese Chairman of the Council of Ministers to visit the Kingdom of Thailand. And later this month, Indonesian President Suharto will pay an official visit to Vietnam. It will be the first Vietnamese visit of an Indonesian President during the past 30 years, and the first Vietnamese visit of a state leader in Southeast Asia since 1975.

These diplomatic activities were very important to Vietnam, contributing to the setting up of new relations between Vietnam and other countries. They also helped consolidate Vietnam's relations with other countries in the region and the world. Due to these activities, Radio BBC said: Vietnam has fully infiltrated into the world community. This conforms to the interests of Vietnam and it is necessary for many countries in the world. The Japanese newspaper ASAHI said that Vietnam is the only large market available in Asia, world countries should enter this market.

Vietnamese War Veterans Welcomed in U.S.

BK0511162590 Hanoi VNA in English 1506 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 5—A cordial reception was given in New York on November 2 by the National Network of Indochina Activists (NNIA) of the United States in honor of a visiting delegation of the Vietnamese Veterans Association.

Present at the reception were representatives of American mass organizations including the American Veterans against the Vietnam War, the Association of Vietnamese in the U.S., the U.S.-Puerto Rico Solidarity Committee, and many activists of the NNIA.

Ambassador Nguyen Canh, deputy head of the Vietnamese permanent mission to the United Nations, was also on hand.

Tran Van Thai, representative of the Vietnam-U.S. Friendship Association, expressed the hope that the visit of the Vietnamese veterans would further the understanding and solidarity between the peoples of Vietnam and the United States.

The visit is funded by the National Network of Indochina Activists, the Asia Resource Centre, the Vietnam Veterans Against the Vietnam War (VVAW), the Association of Vietnamese in the U.S., the Women's Workshop in America, and the U.S.-Puerto Rico Solidarity Organization.

During the visit scheduled for more than one month, the Vietnamese veterans will participate in the first dialogues with Vietnam veterans aimed at exchanging experiences in their activities purported to heal the wounds of war in the two countries.

Decision Made To Contribute to UN Programs

BK0411155690 Hanoi VNA in English 1537 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 4—In 1991, Vietnam will contribute 19,000 U.S dollars to UNDP [United Nations Development Programme], 9,000 U.S dollars to UNICEF, and 2,500 U.S dollars to UNFPA [United Nations Population Fund].

This decision was made public by a representative of the Vietnamese government at a recent two-day conference in New York on the UN member-countries' contributions to the UN's 1991 fiscal year.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will receive 1.8 billion U.S dollars from their member countries in 1991, up by seven percent and 10 percent over 1990 respectively.

First Lufthansa Flight Arrives at Tan Son Nhat

BK0511162090 Hanoi VNA in English 1503 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 5—On 30 October 1990, the first flight of Lufthansa Airlines touched down at Tan Son Nhat International Airport of Ho Chi Minh City inaugurating the regular Frankfurt-Ho Chi Minh City route with a stopover in Singapore.

Among the disembarking passengers was Mr. Dieter Junge, Lufthansa regional director for Southeast Asia. Also among the first passengers of the Boeing 747-400 aircraft were 48 Vietnamese workers coming back from Eastern Germany.

In an exclusive interview granted to VNA correspondent, Mr. Klaus Schmidt, representative of Lufthansa in Ho Chi Minh City, said that the connection to Vietnam reflects Lufthansa's response to the country's recent opening on the political and economic front and is a signal for the optimism resulting thereof.

Initially, there will be one weekly flight leaving every Tuesday for Frankfurt with only one stopover in Singapore. However, the service is readily expandable if Lufthansa's expectations are met, Mr. Klaus Schmidt said.

Directive on Foreign Investment Service Firms

BK0611134690 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] After more than two years of implementing the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam, we have recorded some definite achievements despite the fact that numerous difficulties still remain. Among the contributors to these successes are the various foreign investment consultative service organizations. A great deal of confusion, however, has been reported in this kind of service. Besides a number of efficient investment service organizations, many sectors and localities have permitted the setting up of foreign investment service corporations despite a lack of necessary conditions. These organizations have competed with each other in receiving foreign visitors to collect foreign currency.

To overcome this state of affairs, the chairman of the Council of Ministers has issued Directive No. 280-CT requesting that before a foreign investment consultative corporation is set up and starts operation, it must seek advance approval by the ministers or chairmen of the people's committees of provinces, municipalities, and special zones directly subordinate to the central government, and must be issued a license by the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment.

When approving the setting up of a foreign investment consultative corporation, the ministers or chairmen of the people's committees of provinces, municipalities, and special zones directly subordinate to the central government must carefully consider the needs for foreign investment consultative services and the capability of cadres engaged in this work. They must also bear responsibility for all activities of the corporations set up with their approval.

The setting up and operation of foreign investment consultative service corporations must be in compliance with the conditions stipulated in the Statutes of Foreign Investment Consultative Service Corporations already promulgated by the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment.

Soviet Supplies for Coffee Venture Received

BK0311122690 Hanoi VNA in English 0714 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 3—The Vietnam Union of Coffee Enterprises has received 15,000 tons of material and equipment worth four million rubles from its Soviet partner in their joint venture in coffee planting.

The supplies, which include fertilizers, materials, farm machines, petrol, goods, etc., are designated to extensive farming and processing of coffee in various parts of the country.

Vietnam now has 121,000 hectares of coffee, mostly in the Central Highlands provinces of Darlac, Lam Dong and Gia Lai-Cong Tuum. It is carrying out joint ventures with the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic of Germany in coffee planting.

Agricultural Production in Late Oct Reported

BK0311124690 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Agricultural production in the last 10 days of October was noteworthy in that southern provinces have basically completed harvesting the summer-fall rice crop and planting the 10th-month rice crop. Various localities are now concentrating on growing the winter-spring rice crop. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, as of 25 October the Mekong River Delta provinces had transplanted 114,000 hectares of winter-spring rice. In the north, peasants are urgently harvesting the 10th-month rice. To date, various localities have reaped more than 607,000 hectares, or 47 percent of the cultivated area. According to their reports, rice yields were lower than those of the previous 10th-month crop. Owing to the speedy harvest of the 10th-month rice, the planting of the winter crop has been fast. As of late October, various localities had planted 221,000 hectares of winter crops, fulfilling almost 64 percent of the plan.

Concerning crop pest infestation, in northern provinces fifth-generation stem borers appeared in large numbers at a time when 10th-month rice plants had completed heading, therefore the damage they caused was light. Rice mealy bugs and rice ear-cutting caterpillars also caused limited damage. On the winter crops, the damage caused by harmful insects and diseases remained at normal level. In the southern provinces, brown planthoppers affected 15,000 hectares of rice in the Mekong River delta provinces. In Minh Hai and Hau Giang in particular, thousands of hectares were infested with brown planthoppers with a density estimated at 5,000-10,000 insects per square meter. The provinces concerned are actively applying measures to control the situation. Meanwhile, in Dong Nai Province, about 12,000 hectares of corn, beans, and sugarcane have been ravaged by grasshoppers. Limited damage caused by rice leaf rollers, rice mealy bugs, and rice leaf yellows has also been reported. The localities concerned are urgently taking measures to control harmful insects and diseases to protect their crops.

Rice, Fuel, Gold, U.S. Dollar Prices Cited

BK0511102190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] According to the State Price Commission, the price of grain in the northern provinces, which soared unexpectedly on 30 and 31 October, fell again on 1 and 2 November. It still, however, remains high in some localities.

The prices of rice in Hanoi increased daily, reaching 1,700-1,750 dong per kilogram for new 10th-month rice, 1,750-1,800 dong per kilogram for old 5th-month spring rice, and 1,900-2,000 dong per kilogram for high quality rice. On 1 and 2 November these prices dropped by 200-300 dong per kilogram.

The sale of rice by state-operated grain stores has directly helped reduce the prices of rice in Hanoi. In the Red River Delta provinces, paddy remains at the price of 750-820 dong per kilogram, new 10th-month rice at the price of 1,200-1,250 dong per kilogram, and old 5th-month spring rice at the price of 1,250-1,350 dong per kilogram. In Lang Son and Quang Ninh, rice is sold at the price of 1,400-1,450 dong per kilogram. In Ha Bac, the price of 10th-month rice is 1,350 dong per kilogram.

The prices of paddy and rice in the southern province are relatively stable. The prevailing price of paddy is 700-800 dong per kilogram, while common rice is sold for 1,200-1,250 dong per kilogram. In Ho Chi Minh City alone, the price of common rice has soared from 1,250 to 1,350 dong per kilogram.

The prevailing price of type A-72 or type A-76 gasoline is 2,300-2,600 dong per kilogram. The state has readjusted the retail price of these types of gasoline from 1,800 to 2,200 dong per liter. The prevailing price of kerosene is 2,100-2,300 dong per liter, an increase of 400-500 dong per liter.

Gold prices have fallen slightly. In Hanoi, the price of 98-percent pure gold is 309,000-310,000 dong per chi [one chi is equivalent to 3.75 grams]. In Ho Chi Minh City, the price of 96-percent pure gold is 298,000-300,000 dong per chi and 99.9-percent pure gold is 312,000 dong per chi, a decrease of 2,000 dong per chi.

Meanwhile, the price of the U.S. dollar remains unstable, from approximately 6,450 to 6,540 dong per dollar.

Rice Shortage Reportedly 'Sharply Reduced'

BK0211142490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The rice shortage in Hanoi was sharply reduced today. The price of rice in the market continued to drop by 100-200 dong per kilogram. Rice stores of the Hanoi grain service and the General Grain Corporation No. 1 today sold rice to meet the people's demand and they would continue to do so in the next few days.

According to the comrade minister of agriculture and food industry, 10 trucks and a freighter loaded with 250,000 metric tons of rice have left Ho Chi Minh City for Hanoi.

Radio Analyzes Causes of High Rice Prices

BK0511135290 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Unattributed article on "High Prices of Grain"]

[Summary] "During the past several days prices of grain in northern provinces increased very quickly. The price of rice, for instance, has increased from 1,000 dong to 1,300-1,400 per kg. In Hanoi the price of grade A rice increased from 1,100 dong to 1,500- 1,600 dong per kg. On 30 October the price of rice in the mountain provinces of Ha Tuyen and Lang Son jumped to 1,500 dong per kg, while in Ha Bac, Ha Son Binh, Hai Hung, Ha Nam Ninh provinces, and Haiphong Municipality it was 1,200-1,400 dong per kg."

Since July 1990, the price of rice in southern provinces has increased from 700 to 1,100-1,200 dong per kg, although it is expected that the nation's grain production output this year is about 21.5 million tonnes [metric tons], which is more than last year's output. "The Mekong River Delta area alone will produce 500,000 tonnes more than the previous year."

The main cause of the increase in price of rice was due to the high prices of material for agricultural production, "especially nitrate fertilizer, which jumped to 1,300-1,400 dong per kg—an increase by twofold compared with the past period. Moreover, the prices of oil and fuel as well as electric fees have also increased considerably." As a result, we can say that the high price of rice was not chiefly caused by the preharvest period as before, but it was also due to the high price of materials.

To cope with the high prices of grain, especially in northern provinces, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry has taken measures to reserve more grain for the central government and for each locality, has striven to regulate the distribution of grain to quickly stabilize its prices and to supply more fertilizer to the peasants.

"The ministry also urged localities to ensure a smooth transportation of grain, promote trading and circulation of rice, and strive to meet the consumers' current demands with reasonable prices."

General Doan Khue Leaves for India Visit

BK0511093990 Hanoi VNA in English 0707 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 5—A military delegation led by General Doan Khue, vice defence minister and chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army, left here on November 4 for an official visit to India at the invitation of General S.F. Rodriguez, chief of the General Staff of the Indian Army.

The delegation was seen off at the Hanoi International Airport by General Nguyen Quyet, vice president of the State Council; Jagdish Chandra Sharma, Indian ambassador to Vietnam; and others.

Nguyen Thanh Binh Chairs Purification Meeting

BK0511103490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] At a conference held yesterday, 1 November, all ministers and party committee secretaries of the bloc of central economic organs discussed measures to supervise and purify the party in combination with the struggle against corruption. The conference was chaired by Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh, Political Bureau member and secretary of the party Central Committee.

On behalf of the central economic committee and the party committee of the bloc of central economic organs, Comrade Do Chinh introduced the contents and measures for implementing the Party Central Committee Secretariat's directive No. 64 on providing guidance for the struggle against corruption.

After hearing the speeches delivered by various delegates, the conference noted: By intensively and scrupulously providing guidance for the struggle, a number of sectors have achieved initial results. Meanwhile, by correctly determining the main points in the settlement of various pending cases, some units have been able to reach conclusions on and severely deal with the major cases of negativism at the National Reserves Department; the State Bank; the Ministry of Finance; and the Ministry of Communications, Transportation, and Posts.

In general, however, the campaign has been carried out slowly with poor results, and efforts have not yet been made to deal severely with many cases. It is noteworthy that a broad segment of the masses in the bloc have not yet been motivated. Some of them have even adopted an impassive attitude by maintaining that this struggle may bring about a certain number of results but can hardly solve the problem of corruption. Meanwhile, right-wing deviation and practices of evading responsibility and protecting each other are still widely prevalent, especially among party members who serve as leading cadres.

The conference unanimously agreed to intensively provide guidance for the struggle against corruption in all organs of various economic sectors with the aim of purifying the party organization and state machinery, which is considered the main objective of the bloc's task between now and the end of the first quarter of 1991.

Quang Nam-Da Nang Discipline 587 Party Members

BK0311140790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] After three months of implementing the movement for party organization consolidation, 491 party cells or 44 percent of the Quang Nam-Da Nang Provincial Party Organization have completed the inspection of their party members. Some party cells, especially in party organizations in rural areas and city wards, have carried out this task in a serious and open fashion by applying a combination of suggestions from the masses and criticism and self-criticism by party members within party ranks. Because of this, determining the quality of party members has been relatively accurate.

Through the inspection, 587 party members have been disciplined for wrongdoings, with 70 of them having received warnings, nine dismissed from their positions, and 64 expelled from the party. Among the party members subject to disciplinary action were a director and two deputy directors of provincial services, five directors and deputy directors of enterprise, two members of district party committees, and two heads and deputy heads of district branches.

General Addresses Officer Recruitment Conference

BK0611122190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] The General Staff and the General Political Department recently held a joint conference to discuss the task of creating a manpower pool for officer candidate school recruitment.

Addressing the conference, Senior Lieutenant General Dang Vu Hiep, deputy director of the General Political Department; and Lieutenant General Nguyen The Bon, deputy chief of the General Staff, stressed that the achievement of an extraordinary step forward, namely the initial success in the entrance examination of the Infantry Officer Candidate School No. 1 and the Political- Military Officer Candidate School, has affirmed that personal effort is the most decisive factor in the task of creating a manpower pool for officer candidate school recruitment.

The generals welcomed the initial successful experience of various localities that has proven that there must be correct perception and a high sense of responsibility; meticulous, persistent, scientific, and comprehensive preparations; and harmonious and well-coordinated joint efforts among different organs and levels.

Vo Nguyen Giap Attends Electronics Conference

BK0411143590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 31 Nov 90

[Text] The third national radio and electronics conference concluded in Hanoi recently after a three-day sitting. The conference reviewed achievements scored by the radio and electronics sector in scientific-technological research, industrial production, and in promoting international cooperation during the past years. It also discussed main projects of the sector's developing strategy from now to the year 2005, including the 60-E electronics development program drafted by the Ministry of Heavy Industry.

Attending the conference were comrades Vo Nguyen Giap, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Dang Huu, head of the State Science and Technology Commission; Tran Hong Quan, minister of education and training; Dang Van Than, director of the Post and Telecommunication General Corporation; and Nguyen Dinh Quy, vice minister of heavy industry.

The conference noted that the Vietnam radio, electronics, and information industry sector has made great achievements to quickly modernize itself. The sector has combined research with business activities, participated in improving the people's daily life, and helped in promoting business and marketing.

Many reports stressed findings that can be applied to daily life. The conference noted that the sector's potentials are great and that only some of them have been put into full play.

Addressing the conference, Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Nguyen Giap commended the sector for its efforts to apply scientific-technological innovations to production and daily life. Regarding radio and television broadcasting, the vice chairman urged that more efforts should be made to improve the task in order to broadcast news and information to all localities throughout the country.

The vice chairman expressed the hope that efforts will be made to introduce information science to general schools. He said that the radio and electronics sector should formulate programs to improve the radio and television network and to enhance skills of its cadres and workers.

The conference concluded on 31 October. During the three-day sitting, almost 500 delegates discussed and adopted tasks and orientations for the days ahead that are aimed at further strengthening the Vietnam radio, electronics, and information industry sector.

Review of Oct 90 TAP CHI CONG SAN

BK0111164590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Summary] Today's Press Review Program is devoted to introducing "the contents of the October 1990 issue of TAP CHI CONG SAN."

The journal begins with an article by Nong Duc Manh, head of the party Central Committee's Nationalities Department, saying that "the compatriots of various ethnic minority groups are now facing great ordeals." To overcome these ordeals, according to the author, efforts must be concentrated on:

- —Promptly coordinating "ideas and plans" for the implementation of various economic, cultural, and social policies and guidelines for various areas inhabited by ethnic people.
- —Reexamining past activities in order to come up with "a practical plan for gradually promoting economic, political, social, cultural, security, and national defense development."
- —Determining "orientations for and new methods to build the contingent of ethnic cadres," with emphasis placed on raising the level of knowledge of every ethnic group.

Next is an article by Tran Dinh Hoan, minister of labor, war invalids, and social welfare, on the need to "renovate the social welfare policy in order to contribute to stabilizing society."

An article by Nguyen Phu Trong, a doctoral candidate in scientific history, is titled: "The Principle of Democratic Centralism." The article gives insights into the principle of democratic centralism and says that currently "this principle is not outdated," but is instead "a condition for "ensuring the party's unity in thought and action," and those who are demanding abandonment of the principle of centralism "either do not correctly understand, or deliberately distort this principle for their personal purposes."

Found in the "Research and Exchange" column are:

—An article by Thai Ninh, deputy head of the party Central Committee's Ideological and Cultural Department, titled: "Is a Pure, Classless Democracy Possible?" discusses the historical and conceptual aspects of democracy and says that "there is no pure, classless democracy in the world," and those "putting forth the concept of classless democracy are seeking to conceal the class character of bourgeois democracy. Bourgeois democracy, including American-style democracy, is merely the democracy of the bourgeoisie. It cannot be the democracy of the working people at large nor can it be a democracy of the people, by the people, and for the people."

—An article by Phan Van Nghien, professor and PhD holder in economics, titled: "A Number of Important Issues of the Vietnamese Economy in the Nineties," says that "to effect a drastic change in our country's economy in these nineties, we must solve a host of issues, especially the issues of renovating the economic structure and the management mechanism and implementing various important socioeconomic tasks." To achieve this aim, "greater attention must be paid to fighting inflation and providing employment for the laboring people."

—An article by Nguyen Thanh Bang, holder of a PhD in economics, titled: "Renovate Planning in Our Country," deals with outdated restrictions within the traditional socialist model, such as its advocacy of a planned, in-kind economy" [an economy where barter trade plays a major role] and saying that "this model is no longer suitable to the new environment and the economy in our country at present." The author calls for "a new mode of planning suitable to reality—that is, indirect planning," which consists chiefly of: a. the central government forseeing the growth and changes in market economic activities in order to come up with initiatives for promoting economic development by issuing practical policies to guide economic units in their businesses; b. shifting from inflexibility to flexibility in achieving a balance for the national economy; c. exercising of unified control by the state over macroeconomic management on a national scale; d. in planning, the linking of production with the market based on the market structure; and e. stepping up activities of insurance companies.

—An article by Vu Hien dealing with the strong and weak points of the market economic structure.

The "Opinions and Experience" column consists of the following:

—An article by La Thang, secretary of the Lang Son provincial party committee, on how to make a province with a predominantly ethnic population prosperous.

—An article by Tien Hai on standards to be met by Communist Party members in the current renovation.

—An article by Dang Duc Dam, doctoral candidate in economics, on the need to "renovate the policy on wages and income," saying that it is nececcessary to more satisfactorily ensure the principle of distribution according to labor and to do away with the idea of issuing more money for pay increases.

—An article by Dinh Van Qui, judge of the Supreme People's Court, on the reason why local courts are "slow in renovating themselves organizationally and in terms of their activity."

—An article by Nguyen Van Loc dealing with the need to increase annuities for pensioners.

—An article by Le Trung Nghiep, doctoral candidate in philosophy, discussing "the need to build organic relations between the party and the intelligentsia" and calling for better treatment of intellectuals, "both materially and spiritually."

An "Investigation" column article by Chu Thai Thanh shows how Ho Chi Minh City has solved its unemployment problem.

Next is a story by Nhi Le in the "Activity and Ideology" column, raising concerns over the violation of party regulations by party committee members.

This is followed by an article by Le Tich in the "Letter to The Editorial Staff" column, calling for "drastic measures" against cross-border smuggling.

Found in the "World, Problems, and Events" column is an article by Xuan Anh, a section chief in the party Central Committee's Foreign Relations Department, dealing with various "historical features of democratic socialism and its renovative nature" and saying that "democratic socialism can in no way replace socialism, nor can it be a way out of the current crisis in various socialist countries."

In the "Through Foreign Publications" column are the following articles:

—An excerpt from a speech by Comrade Cunhal, general secretary of the Communist Party of Portugal Central Committee, at an extraordinary party congress, dealing with "the historic role of socialism, its contributions, and its undeniable superiority in the world history of development, and providing a general assessment of the complex developments in the reforms in the Soviet Union and other East European countries."

—Article by Natalia Moritova, criticizing as "unfounded" the current allegations against Lenin as seen in the Soviet Union and pointing out why some people who previously praised Lenin are now "stoning" him.

Australia

Foreign Minister Defends Jet Sale to Pakistan

BK0611114590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1024 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Canberra, Nov 6 (AFP)—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans Tuesday rejected criticism by India's high commissioner here of the sale of Mirage fighters to Pakistan.

Mr. Evans told the Senate he had been "very surprised and very disappointed" by comments made by outgoing High Commissioner Sudarshan Bhutani, who recently claimed that India's security interests had been ignored.

Mr. Bhutani said that the sale of the 50 Mirage fighters to Pakistan would harm relations between India and Australia.

Mr. Evans said that Australia would only review the sale if full-scale war broke out between Pakistan and India, or if hostilities were imminent. "I can't explain what goes on in the minds of Indian high commissioners who get things as fundamentally wrong as this particular gentleman did on this particular occasion," he said. "I am very surprised, very disappointed, as a result that the matter was aired in the way that it was by the high commissioner."

Mr. Evans said that the Pakistani Government had dispatched a ship and was expected to take delivery of the jets "about now."

EEC Blamed for World Trade Talks Impasse

BK0211092290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0627 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Canberra, Nov 2 (AFP)—Australia singled out France and Germany on Friday for the deadlock threatening world trade talks, but added that Japanese attitudes were encouraging European intransigence.

Trade Negotiations Minister Neal Blewett said the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) had reached "a critical stage."

The European Economic Community was three weeks overdue in meeting a deadline to produce proposals to reform agricultural trade and reduce protectionism, he said.

"I have got to say that prospects for the round do not look good," he told reporters here. It was, Dr. Blewett went on, "up to (European) Community nations—particularly France and Germany—to break the deadlock for which they are solely responsible."

"While there are blockages in other areas of negotiations, the crisis we now face stems directly from the procrastination of the European Community in its presentation," he said. But, he added, "It is very difficult to argue for reforming European agriculture if at the same time the Japanese maintain their position of not permitting the import of a single grain of rice."

Dr. Blewett was due to leave here later Friday for Geneva, where he was to chair a meeting on Monday of ministers from the 14-member Cairns Group of agriculture-exporting nations. The group includes Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand and Urguguay. Fiji is also a member, but is not a participant in GATT, and is not taking part in the ministerial meeting in Geneva.

Officials here said the group produced one-third of the world's total agricultural exports.

Dr. Blewett would not say what measures the group might take if the talks failed to produce a satisfactory agreement, but he warned that the collapse of the Uruguay Round would "give the green light to forms of creeping protectionism seen in the '80s."

Officials To Inspect Chemical Weapons Facility

BK0511151990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1445 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Sydney, Nov 5 (AFP)—Australian officials would join a team inspecting the U.S. chemical weapons destruction facility on Johnston Atoll early next year, officials said Monday.

A foreign affairs spokesman said from Canberra that Australia wanted to ensure the plant was environmentally safe. "The opportunity to take up the American invitation will be grasped," he said.

"The Americans are organising or inviting officials from Pacific countries to go there, which will include Australian officials.

"Australia and the South Pacific have been very concerned that anything that does happen is environmentally sound (and) is not going to provide any threat to the Pacific."

The U.S. Army will incinerate the chemical weapons stored on the island 700 nautical miles (1,300 kilometres) southwest of Hawaii together with thousands of weapons being shipped from U.S. bases in Germany.

U.S. President George Bush recently assured Pacific leaders that no more weapons would be shipped to the Coral Atoll, which measures less than one square mile (2.5 square kilometres).

The foreign affairs spokesman said: "We accepted the American argument that this was a one off thing."

The U.S. Army began test destruction on the atoll on June 30 and has so far destroyed more than 3,300 M-55 rockets and warheads.

Fiji

Government To Adopt Deregulation Policies

BK0611105290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Suva, Nov 6 (AFP)—Fiji's military-backed government has announced plans to cut defence spending, reduce import tariffs and price controls, deregulate the labour market and reform taxes.

Finance Minister Josevata Kamikamica told a news conference here Monday that measures would be introduced to "set the economic system free from... A network of regulations that prevent the operation of free markets." He said the country hoped to follow the economic successes of the four Asian tigers: Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea.

Mr. Kamikamica said Fiji's armed forces had grown in strength from 2,000 men before two military coups in 1987, to 5,015 today. "It would take time to contain expenditure on the army but that is what we want to do," he said. The defence budget was about five million Fiji dollars (4.45 million U.S.) before the coups and some 30 million dollars now.

The government intended to reduce import tariffs to "increase competition," he said. Tariffs on some goods were currently as high as 107 per cent, but Mr. Kamikamica said attempts to isolate Fiji from global prices in the 20 years since independence were unrealistic.

He said imports of goods and services, even after two decades of import replacement policies, amounted to about 50 per cent of gross domestic product. "With such a large import requirement, the country must export, and it must accept world prices as the determinant of what it produces," he said. "It has done so in tourism and should do so in manufactured goods and primary products."

He pointed to the Asian tigers, West Germany and Japan as examples of nations that "achieved success through exporting."

Mr. Kamikamica cited Fiji's construction industry as an example of a sector suffering from high prices of protected inputs. "This in turn inhibits investment," he said.

In parallel, the government would reduce price controls, which were originally imposed to ensure that industries protected by high tariffs (like locally manufactured milk) did not make unreasonably high profits.

Industrialist Hari Punja described the proposed moves as "a mistake that the government would realise after four or five years" when small industries were pushed out of business.

Some private sector trade unions have also argued that deregulation would boost unemployment. But while acknowledging that "there may be some job losses in industries currently heavily protected," Mr. Kamikamica retorted: "these should be more than offset by growth in employment in industries, which will develop in response to initiatives to provide more economic freedom."

The government planned to abolish statutory guidelines for minimum wages, to allow the "labour market to operate with maximum freedom."

He asserted that the unions generally favoured deregulation "and if they listen to our plans we are prepared to talk to them."

On taxation, Mr. Kamikamica said the emphasis would shift from income tax to indirect taxes.

New Zealand

David Lange To Ask for Release of Westerners

BK0611061690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0549 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Wellington, Nov 6 (AFP)—Former New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange, currently en route for Iraq, will ask President Saddam Husayn to free all Westerners trapped in the Gulf, a hostage support group spokeswoman said here Tuesday.

"Mr. Lange is not just going to ask for the New Zealanders," Karen Lane of New Zealand's relatives' support group said. "He would want the release of all Westerners." There are 11 New Zealanders in Kuwait and six in Iraq, all men and all unable to leave. They were detained following Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait

Mr. Lange's office said here earlier he was expected to leave India on Tuesday for Iraq, following completion of paperwork for his visa.

Mrs. Lane also said relatives of the hostages asked Mr. Lange to go only after arranging an interview with Mr. Husayn, which he has apparently failed to do. "We don't want to be responsible for another person trapped in there," she said.

Mrs. Lane revealed the New Zealanders in Kuwait had met in an apartment on October 26. Two were chosen to write to Wellington, suggesting Mr. Lange be asked to help, and the letter was smuggled into Baghdad, she said. "The letter was read to me on Sunday night (October 28) by a New Zealander living in Baghdad," Mrs. Lane said. "And following his reading of the letter he said, 'Karen, please, I emphasise that the men in Baghdad request the same cry for help. Please help us'. That's when we hit the urgent button."

Mr. Lange sent a message to the support group Tuesday which said: "Mr. Lange is pleased with developments so far. Very great difficulties involved. We look forward to confronting them". The group would not say if the message contained more.

Mrs. Lane said the support group had voted unanimously to accept whatever number of hostages could be released by Mr. Lange. "After living with the Arabs I realise their system is one of bartering. Mr Lange is not just going to ask for the New Zealanders. He would want the release of all Westerners," she said.

"If Mr. Lange comes out with one person, it will still be a successful mission. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Mrs. Lange said the level of frustration at the last meeting of relatives was extreme. "The letters from Kuwait were getting worse. We had to know that we were doing something," she said.